



NORTHCOASTCHURCH
Jesus - People - Family

Growth Group Discussion Questions

4. Everyone judges and judgers get judged by the Judge

Read Romans 2:1-16

God's judgement is inescapable

1. Verse 1 tells us something about human nature – that making moral judgements is unavoidable. ***Looking closely at verse 1-3, discuss what argument Paul gives that proves no one will escape God's judgement?***
2. ***What would you say to someone who says, 'There's no justice in the world?'***
3. ***What are the two possible responses to judgement being delayed according to verse 4-5?***

God's judgement is deserved

4. "We will only ever get what we deserve irrespective of our race, religion or culture." ***Discuss whether you agree with this statement in the light of verse 6-11. Would you describe this as good news or bad news?***

God's judgement is fair

5. In verse 10-16 the Bible says that God will judge everyone – whether they have God's written word like the Jews did, or whether they don't like the Gentiles who didn't. ***On what basis will God judge people who didn't have His written word? Discuss whether you think this is fair.***
6. ***When will God judge the world?***
7. ***Why do you think Paul is spending so much time (from 1:18 all the way to 3:20) talking about wrath, sin, and judgement?***
8. So, God's judgement is inescapable, deserved and fair which means we are all in BIG TROUBLE! And judgement day is coming. ***Discuss in your own words, 'how then can we be saved?' What verses in the Bible would you quote? Can you sum up the solution in one word?***

Leaders Notes

1. The aim of this question is to get people to be able to articulate in their own words one of the strongest proofs that God's judgement is inescapable. In our human nature we constantly make more judgements and we pass judgement on those who fail our moral standards. But, this only proves that we ourselves are guilty because we often fail our own moral judgements. If our own consciences condemn us, how much more will God, the Author of moral standards!
2. This is a great gospel opportunity. If someone says that, we should begin by agreeing with them. Too true! There isn't any justice in this world. But then, hold on, if there isn't any justice in the world, where did we get our idea of justice from? Why do we believe there *ought* to be justice if we never see it? At that point, the idea of a Moral Author of Justice makes perfect sense. But more. Next ask that person if they would like there to be perfect justice? If no, what are they complaining about? If yes, then where does that leave them? We all know that we have done wrong things. It is the gospel of Jesus Christ only that makes perfect sense and reason to these questions. There is perfect justice – just not yet. God is holding back, delaying bringing His perfect justice because He patiently wants us to turn to Him for forgiveness. Like any Good Parent, God would rather we turned and said sorry than have to punish us.
3. Patience leads to some people going soft and repenting and other people going harder and storing up for themselves even more wrath.
4. Verse 6-11 proves this. God's judgement is deserved, whatever that judgement may be. Of course, its worth pointing out that this isn't good news for anyone. No one has perfectly done good, no not one... er wait... there was One!
5. On the basis of their 'own hearts' as verse 15 says. God has written a moral code on the heart of every single human being. In fact, this is what makes us human beings in contrast with animals which are creatures not of moral judgement but of instinct. Since God will only judge people according to their own consciences, this is extremely fair. No one will escape God's judgement because no one has perfectly followed their own conscience. As the old saying goes, 'to err is human'.
6. The best answer is 'who knows?' But seriously, the point to stress here is 'one day'. Each of us ought to know with absolute conviction that there really is such a day. It is set in stone – or even more sure, it is set in God's mind and heart and it will happen.
7. What's the point of good news if there isn't any bad news, or bad situation in which to receive good news? We need to know the truth of our dire straits before the gospel has any 'good' about it.
8. Up to the Growth Group but here's hoping someone somewhere will speak of the cross and explain how Jesus took our condemnation and judgement and we get His goodness and righteousness. The glorious word is SWAP!