**Romans 2 – Why We Need To Not Play God**

**\*\* As we begin:**

* We have all experienced it. The person who slandered us, gossiped about us, or stood in the corner with their group, griping, criticizing, pointing fingers, at the church, at people.
* This study in Romans will be theological as well as practical. We begin in **Rom. 2**.
* **Rom. 1:18-32** shows us man’s descent into sin and its results. **Rom. 2** picks up right after that.
* A problem in the church worldwide is that there are those who point their fingers at others and judge them.

**Three Thoughts To Take With Us**

**Be careful who we point fingers at (vss. 1-3)**

* Those who judge others are “without excuse” (cannot be defended, inexcusable) as **vs. 1** notes.
* When we point out the fault of others and excuse our sins, God says that is inexcusable.
* Note the word “judges” in **vs. 1**. It means “to judge severely (unfairly), finding fault in others.”
* Maybe we don’t lie, but we gossip. We don’t steal, but we are lazy.
* When we pass judgment on another, we are condemning ourselves **(vs. 1)**. Note **Rom. 1:29-31**.
* **Note:** If we have enough knowledge to point out where others have failed, we also have the same knowledge to honestly look at our lives to see where we can improve and deal with sin.
* **Practical:** If we are a believer in Christ, He disciplines us because He loves us **(Heb. 12)**. Do not condemn others while we overlook our own sins. We will not face judgment, but we are either a positive or negative influence on others.

**Never take God for granted (vss. 4-5)**

* **Vs. 4** discusses a few of the character qualities of God. If not a believer, we see the God Who is willing to make us His child. If a believer, it reminds us of the God we serve.
* I do not believe most of us “presume” (to despise, think little or nothing of, to look down upon) things when it comes to God’s character. We do not look down upon them or think nothing of Who God is.
* Three attributes of God are mentioned in **vs. 4**. **First, His kindness**. This refers to His goodness. God can be trusted; He gives us life and so much to enjoy. He is intensely interested in us **(Eph. 2:10)**.
* **Practical:** God has given us all we need **(Jam. 1:17)** because He cares about us. We as Christ followers are to show kindness and to do good to others **(Col. 3:12)**.
* **Second, we experience God’s tolerance**. The word “forbearance” in **vs. 4** means “a holding back, delaying.” God holds back judgment so that more people will come to faith in Him **(2 Peter 3:9)**.
* God endures a lot from people. They misrepresent Him, do not tell the truth about Him, test Him, use His name in vain. He delays judgment so people will have a chance to become a child of His.
* Practical: God tolerates stuff even in the lives of His children. We are not judged or condemned **(Rom. 8:1)**, but He puts up with things from us. We are to use our freedom to serve **(Gal. 5:13)**.
* **Third, we experience God’s patience**. When God is wronged, He does not immediately spring into action to attack us, to get at us. He does at times immediately intervene.
* If anyone would have the “right” to be impatient, it would be God.
* **Practical:** We as followers of Jesus can be thankful for God’s patience. When we slip-up, He convicts us of sin because He cares, and He is patient as we grow in our relationship with Him.
* In **vss. 4-5** we see God’s kindness to both those who need Him and those who are His children.
* **Practical:** Guard against being self-righteous or excusing our sins. Repent when necessary.

**God always responds in the right way (vss. 6-11)**

* It can be easy to take for granted things God has done in our lives.
* In **vss. 6-10** Paul is not saying we earn our salvation by what we do. There will be judgment on those who reject God’s gift of salvation. See **Rev. 20:11-15**.
* **Vss. 6-7** tells us that someone who knows Christ will show by their life that they belong to God.
* The word for “patience” in **vs. 7** describes someone who no matter what they are going through in life, is loyal to their faith in Christ.
* “Well-doing” means that we do the right thing no matter the cost to us.
* **Vss. 8-9** show the attitudes of those who do not know Christ. They are “self-seeking” and will do whatever they must to get what they want.
* They also “do not obey the truth.” This does not describe Christians. We may slip up and sin, but we do not live in constant disobedience to God. See **1 John, James, Ephesians, Colossians, Romans**.
* Remember to not point fingers, that God is fair and that His heart is for all to be saved and for His children to live in a way that honors God.