

The Father Judges No One

Jack and Trisha Frost

"My wife has left me! My children are gone! I thought that God was angry and ashamed of me for all the hurt and pain I've caused and you are telling me that He loves me the way I am and does not judge me?" This man, crying uncontrollably, called in while I was live on a radio program a few years ago. He heard me speaking of the Father's unconditional love, compassion, and forgiveness for us even when we have failed. He shared how he had never heard of a God like this, but only One who would

judge you for each failure. He felt so ashamed in God's eyes that He felt He could never invite Jesus into his heart. That day, he met "the One who came not to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him" (John 3:17). Within two days, God's love and compassion, working through him, helped him to lead his brother and sister-in-law to the Lord.



This man is not alone in his feeling that God is just looking for someone who has failed Him so He can pour His judgment upon them. Many live with a sense of shame and failure and feel they have no value to others, to God, or to themselves unless they strive to be good enough to have a right to be loved and accepted. Some get tired of all the hyper-religious activity and retreat into "numb-numb-ville", where they seek to comfort their emotional pain with addictions, compulsions, or depression. They feel as if everyone is looking at them and judging them. They may feel like their whole life is a mistake and end up like Adam and Eve when they sinned: "I was naked, and felt ashamed, so I hid myself" (Genesis 3:10). It then becomes difficult to realize that God is so loving and forgiving, that even while they are hiding, He is still calling out to them and looking to cover their sense of shame and failure.

The root problem lies in what we believe! Mark Virkler did a study among Christians that revealed that 80% of our thoughts are negative. We agree four times as much with what "the accuser of the brethren" says about us than with what "the Father of Creation" says. "God can't love me! I fail God all the time! I'm not worth anything to Him! I deserve to be punished!" As a result of agreeing with the accuser, our feelings follow our thoughts like the caboose follows the train. Then we easily take on a sense of shame and guilt consciousness that makes us feel that God is far away and does not care about us.

If God is perfect, unconditional love, and love thinks no evil (1 Corinthians 13:5 KJV), how can God ever think a negative thought about you? Consider that: all of God's thoughts toward you are filled with plans for your good and not for anything that would bring you harm (Jeremiah 29:11). God is light and in Him is no darkness at all and, in Christ, He cleanses you from all unrighteousness and sin. Therefore, how can he think anything harmful toward you (1 John 1:5-9)?

It is our ungodly belief system that causes us to think that God judges us and does not love and accept us unconditionally. When we begin to believe that we must meet certain standards in God's eyes to be loved and accepted, then we are heading for trouble. We start feeling like we are unworthy to be loved and deserve to be punished and are far off from God. It is these feelings that create a great hindrance to intimacy with God and with others, because how we feel about ourselves is how we think God feels about us and how we end up treating others. This leaves a great separation in our relationships and results in a love deficit.

A love deficit is what occurs when we feel others and/or God are not meeting all of our needs; so we start looking for the love we need in every place other than in God. Look back on most of the problems you have faced in life; most were because you looked to someone else besides God to meet your need for love and acceptance. A silent cry results, "Somebody love and accept me!" Others pick up on that cry, and you find yourself trapped in unhealthy relationships that pull on your emotions and manipulate you like a puppet on a string.

We look to others and not God because we haven't understood the heart of God as a loving, caring Father. When you think of your earthly father's reaction to times when you failed, do you see him with a hard, calloused face? Is he looking at you with a judgmental, demeaning, and disapproving eye – or do you see him with outstretched arms beckoning you to come and receive His love and forgiveness? So often we see Father God through the lens of our relationship with our earthly fathers. We transfer to God our feelings about our fathers. That may answer the reason why it is so hard for you to approach the Father during times of loneliness and pain!

I used to see all the scriptures in the Bible about holiness and how far I came from matching up in God's eyes. I was a hard person to live with then. When I received a revelation of the Father's love, I meditated more on the scriptures about the Father's love and grace and I started having greater mercy, compassion, and tenderness toward my family. One belief system separated me from close relationships, while the other belief system led me into deeper intimacy with those I love. Do you think God is more interested in punishing you than in loving you? Then you have a misunderstanding of what heaven will be like. Do you want to spend eternity with an angry God, or would you rather spend eternity with a forgiving and loving God?

I've become more sensitive to the voices I hear. The accuser's (satan's) voice is always accusing, and the Comforter's (Holy Spirit's) voice is always comforting. This little revelation helps me to know if God is behind the thought or conversation, or if law and legalism is; for the accuser is a legalist and there is no love in law. This realization has helped me become more excited about what the Father says about me than with what others say or think. This has taken me into a realm of peace, rest, and intimacy deeper than I have ever believed possible. Knowing that love thinks no evil has changed my belief system.

Let me share some simple scriptures with you that I have paraphrased for myself to make them more personal. Begin to meditate upon these:

Jesus and the Father are never ashamed of me. (Hebrews 2:11; 11:16)

The Father has always been drawing me to His love, for He has never not loved me. I have never not been loved. (Jeremiah 31:3)

Not even the Father judges me, for He turned judgment over to the Son. (John 5:22, 24)

Even when I haven't kept Jesus' words, He does not judge me, for He didn't come to judge me but to save me from my sins and failures. (John 3:17; 8:11, 15; 12:47, 48)

I am in the age of grace and there is no judgment until Jesus comes. (Hebrews 9:27)

My Father leads me with cords of love and lifts the yoke of rejection off of me. (Hosea 11:4)

When I have failed, the Father is always drawing me to His embrace. (Luke 15:20)

My Father longs to embrace me no matter how terrible I think my sins are. I only need be willing to receive His love. (Matthew 23:37)

Even in the midst of my transgressions, my Father loves me and wants me to sit right beside Him. (Ephesians 2:4-6)

There is nothing I can do to cause the Father's love and presence to leave or forsake me. (Luke 15:31; Hebrews 13:5)

Over the last seven years, I've come to believe these truths more than what others have said about me and what religion taught me in the past. How can I walk in shame, rejection, and failure when I've moved this revelation from my head to my heart by meditating on these words?

Will the Father discipline us? Yes! But it will not be done in a way that imparts shame, fear, or intimidation. That is the enemy's tactics, not the Comforter's. Punishment inflicts pain; compassionate, loving discipline changes behavior (Hebrews 12:5-11). Ask the prodigal son or the adulterous woman how they feel about this (Luke 15; John 8).

I don't have to be good enough to be loved! I don't have to grow and mature enough to be loved! I don't have to change to be loved! God loves me the way I am, not the way I should be! Once I have experienced this love deep in my heart, it becomes the greatest motivation possible to keep me from temptation and sin. The deepest desire in me becomes to be near Him and like Him. Trisha has said many times that this revelation changed me more in those 45 minutes in November, 1995, than the previous 15 years all combined of walking with the Lord. Nothing has changed my character and relationships as much as knowing how God feels about me.

God so loved the world that He sent His Son to save you from your sin, not to make you feel condemned or a failure (John 3:16). Fill your thoughts with what His loving nature is really like, and you will find your character becoming more soft and gentle as rest enters your soul (Matthew 11:27-30). As His love and compassion fill your heart, a fresh anointing will come for you to reach out to your family, the wounded, and the lost with the Father's love.

In the Father's love,

Jack and Trisha Frost

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