

01 JUDGMENT DECLARED

KEY TEXT: AMOS 2:4-16

CENTRAL truth

If we care more about pleasing ourselves than doing what is right, we are going to make selfish choices. This was certainly true of Judah and Israel in Amos's day. The problem is we can't serve God and make selfish choices at the same time. **If we ignore God and His truth, sooner or later, we will face His judgment.**

key question

What makes people think they can treat people badly and worship God at the same time? What do we need to understand?

Because salvation is a free gift from God, some people think they don't have to try. They think they can take advantage of God's grace by treating others however they want. However, as God's children, it is our responsibility to show the world who He is so He can receive the recognition He deserves. When we treat people badly, we not only mistreat His image bearers, but also misrepresent Him and give people reason to doubt His character.

keep in mind

When Christians don't love others well by putting others' needs before our own, we fail to represent God accurately. However, we must be very careful not to let the world dictate what serving others looks like. God has already prepared the good deeds He expects us to do (see Eph. 2:10), and He never contradicts Himself.

Students are probably being told by their unbelieving friends that if they don't accept or even participate in the sinful behavior of their peers, they are not being loving or kind. Students need to understand that when we are asked to speak a word or perform a deed that contradicts the Bible or the Holy Spirit, we can assume that the person(s) asking is not speaking for God and we must ignore their request.

application

What can we do to make sure that everyone is treated with the dignity and respect they deserve as bearers of God's image?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students should recognize their responsibility as followers of Jesus to represent God well by treating people with dignity and respect. They should be able to identify ways they can help or champion people who might have been mistreated.

FOR THE LEADER: Communicate the importance of treating people with kindness and compassion after Jesus's example, but caution students against judging one another or trying to please the world.

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