

James Crawford "The Toxic Culture of Self-Righteousness"

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## "The Toxic Culture of Self-Righteousness"

### Introduction

As I sought the Lord for this week's Sunday sermon, He impressed upon me to preach on "The Toxic Culture of Self-Righteousness." A person who thinks other people are more wicked than themselves is toxic. They make us sick, literally. The Spirit wants us to surround ourselves with good people who know God's mercy so that we can be spiritually healthy in these last days.

In today's sermon we'll learn what self-righteousness is, how we are being infected by it and how we can be delivered of it.

Let's get better together today!

Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable **to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous** and **treated others with contempt**: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other **a tax collector**. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

**I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'** **But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'**

I tell you, **this man went down to his house justified** rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and **he who humbles**

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himself will be exalted."

## 1. God is Right

Religious men try to judge for God all the time, but they miss the mark because they do not seek God for His judgments.

John 5:30

I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

## 2. Surround Yourself with The Good & Merciful

We need friends who are just like Jesus. When people want to stone us, a good friend will come to our rescue and defend us, even in our sin. Imagine that! Notice here that some judge according to their flesh.

John 8

2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. 3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst,

4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

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7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."  
8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"

11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." "I Am the Light of the World" 12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

13 The Pharisees therefore said to Him, "You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true." 14 Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going. 15 **You judge according to the flesh;** I judge no one. 16 And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true...

### 3. This Kind of Mercy Rules in Heaven

Hebrews 4:16

"Let us then **with confidence draw near** to the **throne of grace**, that we may **receive mercy and find grace** to help **in time of need.**"

Mercy and grace are the "true north," so to speak, of God's character. Both convey His heart towards His children in a way that wrath, though

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warranted, does not. God actually delights in showing mercy and grace, and He does so abundantly.

Many times we are not even aware of the profound magnitude of God's mercy. Other times, we are transformed by the realization of it. And He is also a God of grace. He knows we are weak and broken, but it is His grace that gives our lives worth.

Psalm 145:9

The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

#### **4. Our Doctrine is Second, Mercy is First**

1 Corinthians 13

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 **And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.**

8 **Love never fails.** But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; **whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.**

#### **5. Who has Word-Cursed You with Self-Righteous Accusation?**

We will break these curses today!

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## **6. Some Religious Ministers Join the Self-Righteous Mob to Build a Bigger Name for Themselves**

There are certainly more immature, self-righteous Christians than there are mature and merciful ones. If you dare to be more helpful to others who are being thrown under the bus, you may be the minority in the body of Christ. However, you will be the finest gold the Lord has, and you will be rewarded one day soon!

Prophetic word: Everyone wants honor with men, but I want the gold!

Matthew 25

34 Then **the King** will say to those on His right hand, '**Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you** from the foundation of the world: 35 for **I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'**