

God's kindness leads us to repentance.

Romans 2:1-5

*Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in **passing judgment** on another you **condemn yourself**, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. ² We know that the judgment of God **rightly falls** on those who practice such things. ³ **Do you suppose**, O man—**you who judge** those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that **you will escape** the judgment of God? ⁴ Or **do you presume** on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵ But because of your hard and impenitent heart **you are storing up wrath** for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.*

Q: What is the default response of the human heart when confronted with its own sin?

A: Deflect and disguise.

Insights

- Even outwardly moral or religious people can practice a form of idolatry, even if it looks or smells nice.

Common false foundations

- 1) "I was born into a Christian family, so I'm all good with God."
- 2) "Me and God have an understanding."
- 3) "God told me that that part of the Bible doesn't actually apply to me."
- 4) "I'm a good and generous (religious) person, and God will accept me because of that."
- 5) "I've already been baptized, christened, confirmed. I'm Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Charismatic, etc."
- 6) "I'm a spiritual person, just not religious."

Romans 1:20b

So they are without excuse.

Romans 2:1

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

Douglas Moo: “Many of these sins—for example, pride, arrogance, gossiping, maligning others, and lack of affection—are as prevalent in the Jewish as in the Gentile world. In fact, Paul will accuse the Jews of some of these same sins in vv. 17–24.”¹

- Even outwardly moral or religious people can be tempted to try and edit God – 2:2-3 *We know that the judgment of God **rightly falls** on those who practice such things.* ³ **Do you suppose, O man—you who judge** those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that **you will escape** the judgment of God?
- Even outwardly moral or religious people can presume that they have no need to repent – 2:4-5 *Or **do you presume** on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?* ⁵ **But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath** for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.

Q: How should I respond?

A: A reverse heart condition from verse 5: *responsive and repentant heart.*

Action points

- How can you show God’s kindness to your family this week?
- When your conscience bothers you, thank God that your conscience is still operational.

¹ Douglas J. Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans, The New International Commentary on the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1996), 130–131.