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Show Notes for the 5-minute audio show at OverflowShow.com titled:

Christians Are Judgmental !!

We enthusiastically recommend the book TACTICS, by Gregory Koukl, published by Zondervan

Koukl showed the basic flaw in the complaint, "Christians are judgmental!!"

The key flaw is that the person's complaint is self-contradicting and hypocritical. How so?

That person is acting in judgment of your opinion on the matter. He is judging you for judging.

The bigger problem is that almost any time you have an opinion on a moral matter in today's society, unless it's a "yes" vote, you're usually going to be accused of being judgmental.

If a person is in favor of a looser moral view, they are not as often accused of being judgmental, or of trying to "force his opinion on others." Because he judges the other person's opposing view as being judgmental, he acts in judgment upon it instead of honestly dialoging about the pros and cons of the matter at hand.

Koukl says a great answer to someone who accuses a Christian of being judgmental in general or in regard to a specific issue, would be to respond this way, "Well then why are you being judgmental of me right now? By calling my opinion wrong or by calling me judgmental, aren't you judging me?"

The author says that it is very important to stop talking at that point, even if there is dead air, and sincerely wait for the other person's response. This is necessary to allow that person to ponder your point and to ponder the issue. He also says a gracious tone is important.

What about the scriptures that say, "Do not judge" in Luke 6:37 and Matthew 7:1-5.

Koukl says not all judging is equal. There are 3 types.

- 1) Condescending, self-serving, unfair, unfounded, for the sake of putting someone down. Jesus is prohibiting this type of judgment in the passages. We must be careful about our attitude.

But two other types of judgment are commanded in scripture, not forbidden.

- 2) In judicial matters when done by governments, or by the church in regard to its members possible immoral behavior.
- 3) Appraisals of right and wrong, rational or irrational, separating the good from the bad, being mindful of there being wheat and tares present, the scriptural charge of not being a part of the evil deeds of darkness but rather exposing them. All such affairs require fair and careful judgment.