

Romans 2

Read Romans 2:1-11: It is easy to be dogmatic when we have no skin in the game. It is easy to be a hard-liner towards others when none of these challenges affect you. To be a good judge or a fair critic, you need to walk a mile in that man's shoes. We all feel that extenuating circumstances apply when it's our cause. So do many of our nation's inmates. We tend to be less liberal with our view of other lawbreakers. Nobody wants to be reasonable unless they are in the same boat. Anyone who throws stones should have a very clear understanding of the situation.

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Therefore let's approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of our need. (Hebrews 4)

Paul is telling the proud Jew and the high-minded Greeks that they are just as guilty of sin as these crazed idolaters. All of a sudden, the heart of the reader changes. We are no longer reading about someone deserving to have the book thrown at them. We are reading about what is happening to us.

For whoever keeps the whole Law, yet stumbles in one point, has become guilty of all. (James 2:10)

²⁰ "For I say to you that unless your righteousness far surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. ²¹ "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MURDER,' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be answerable to the court.' ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be answerable to the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be answerable to the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. (Matthew 5)

Read Romans 2:12-24: This is a very important set of rules that apply to all mankind. Some people believe the biblical standard and are held to that measurement. Others do not believe in the bible, and they make up their own rules and try to create a virtual or progressive society. One problem with that is that you are held to your own standard. If you reject the 10 Commandments you might just experience theft, murder, slander, or some other biblically included safeguard. When a liberal calls a Christian a bigot he becomes guilty for not carefully weighing the evidence provided by the Christians. Additionally, we tend to have blind spots in areas of our own weaknesses. This is referred to as being nose blind.

The Jews thought of Gentiles as firewood for hell; because they came from idolatrous peoples...but so did Abraham.

Joshua said to all the people, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel says: ‘From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates River; namely, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they served other gods. ³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the Euphrates River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his ^[a]descendants and gave him Isaac. (Joshua 2)

It is intellectually dishonest to criticize others for being caught doing things that you have fantasized about.

Read Romans 2:25-29: The Jews majored in the minors in some cases. They completely missed God’s intent. God told Abraham to become circumcised or die. The knife cut was not what made a person righteous or unrighteous. It was an example of the willingness to follow God. Similarly, God told Moses not to follow the idolatrous practice of boiling a kid in its mother's milk. God does not care if you put meat and cheese on the same cracker and hors d'oeuvres plate! Being circumcised does not save you! It’s doing what God says.

The point is that nobody can keep the whole Law of Moses. We are all guilty of the entire book. God wants us to do our best by relying on him and the righteousness of Jesus. To pretend to be self-righteous only makes God and men angry at the hypocrisy.