

## Doctrine of the Morally Superior Person

1. The doctrine of the morally superior person has reference to the self righteous individual.
2. The self righteous individual is the person who verbally expresses condemnation in a matter they themselves are doing or have done.
3. While the condemnation over a given matter may be correct, condemnation what can make the verbalization of it despicable, and hypocritical, is the tone or spirit in which the rendering of a judgment takes place. For this reason the Lord has warned individuals to be careful how they judge.
  - *Matthew 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.*
4. The morally superior person will express harsh intemperate remarks, mixed with a spirit of sudden righteousness, but without a brokenness of heart. By adopting an attitude of moral superiority the person is unlike Christ. When Jesus spoke of the impending judgment upon Jerusalem He did so with tears in His eyes and a brokenness of heart.
  - *Matthew 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!*
5. In the act of condemnation, the morally superior person forgets three facets of Christianity.
  - Verbal condemnation will often go far beyond what Jesus would say and do in a similar situation. Jesus set foot in the home of questionable relationships in order to minister to the spiritually sick. *Matthew 9:11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? 12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. To the suddenly morally superior person Jesus would say, "But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*
  - Verbal condemnation is often contrary to one's own life experience. Reflecting back over the history of the morally superior person it can be demonstrated they received understanding without condemnation from family, friends and spiritual leaders. Though grace was shown, no grace is given by the morally superior person to others in similar situations, real or imagined.
  - Verbal condemnation is contrary to the principle of grace if the spirit is not right, as well as the words. The morally superior person will express a spirit of extreme anger in an emotionally manner which is not helpful or justifiable. Those who have been shown grace need to extend the same grace towards others. Jesus taught this concept in the gospel of Matthew.

*Matthew 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. 23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. 28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: 33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.*

6. What drives the morally superior person?
  - It is not a love for righteousness, because the individual who condemns others in the same or similar situation will often return to their own area of weakness. *2 Peter 2:22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.*
  - It is not for concern over the church, because the assembly of worship is the first place that is abandoned.
7. What drives the morally superior person is a need to suppress a guilty conscience.
8. In the mind of the morally superior person the discovery is made that if self is compared to someone else, then self can look pretty good.
9. The heart can convince itself it is not as sinful, not as desperate, and not as bad, as the one being condemned. The heart of the religious moralist rejoices that it is finally able to condemn someone else and take a superior position!
10. The morally superior person forgets the biblical command for self examination.
  - *2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*

11. The morally superior person has no desire to restore an erring brother or sister. It only wants to condemn, and then withdraw in an act of self righteousness. The morally superior person goes away in anger to justify again the breaking of fellowship and friendships.

- *Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

12. There is a cure for the morally superior person, and it is found by returning to the cross of Calvary for a sight of the crucified one, and remembering for whom Jesus died. Then let the heart sing the words written by John Newton.

“Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.

’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
’Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my Shield and Portion be,  
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise  
Than when we’d first begun.”