

TITLE AND NUMBER: 108. Mind your own business!

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Romans 14:11-13

It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God." So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling-block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.



LOOKING FURTHER: Romans 14:10; Matthew 7:3-5; Isaiah 45:23

What does this Bible passage tell us?

Naturally, it is easy to see the faults and wrongdoings of others. Worse still, we consider those wrongs or faults worse than ours. In this passage Paul, the writer, uses the words of an Old Testament prophet (Isaiah 45:23) to explain that God is the final authority who will examine all of us. It is not our job to do so.

Another reason why we may be wrong when we judge others is because there is a limit to what we know or can know. When we judge others, we are trying to put ourselves in the place of God.

Paul goes on to say that, when we judge other people, it is not only unhelpful but it is also an obstacle to them growing in their relationship with God.

Rather than spend precious time being critical of others, it is far more profitable to spend that time examining ourselves and putting in the work required to correct and make amends for our own shortcomings and faults.

In fact, the entire passage can easily be summarised as:

"...so mind your own business. You've got your hands full just taking care of your own life before God".
(Romans 14:11-12, The Message translation)



Reflections:

- Are you quick to find fault with others, especially your family and friends? Take time to find good things to praise instead.
- Read Matthew 7:3-5 and ask God for help to mind your own business and not compare yourself with others.
- Do you feel 'looked down upon'? Do not write yourself off! You are precious to God. Ask Him for help to know this.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

