

## ROMANS 2

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### KAIROS QUESTIONS

*Read Romans 2*

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or difficult to grasp? Explain.
  
2. Paul makes it very clear that when we judge others we're actually condemning ourselves (v. 1). There are few things that hinder people's receptivity to the Gospel more than the perception, real or perceived, that the church is judgmental and hypocritical.
  - a. Based on your own experience, do you think this criticism (that the church is judgmental and hypocritical) is valid? Why or why not?
  
  - b. What do you have a tendency to struggle with the most: being judgmental or hypocritical? What's enabled you to overcome it or do you still struggle with it from time to time?
  
  - c. What are some specific things you can do—and, together, we can do—to offset this negative image of the church that is so prevalent in our culture?
  
3. This weekend's message drove home the point that God does not show favoritism (v. 11). He is not an arbitrary judge with a propensity for letting certain people off the hook. In a culture like ours, where favoritism is as ubiquitous as fast food, it can be difficult to conceive of a God like this.
  - a. Why do you think Paul deems it necessary to emphasize the impartiality of God? Why does he need to remind us that God does not show favoritism?

- b. If you've been a Christian for any length of time, have there been moments along the way when you've lapsed back into thinking that God does show favoritism, that somehow you were more deserving of his love and acceptance because of something you were doing? If so, and you feel comfortable sharing it, what did you learn from that experience?
  
  - c. Have there also been moments when you felt a burst of self-righteousness and thought that you were more worthy of God's love and acceptance than someone else? Why is it so difficult for us to suppress self-righteousness and live in genuine humility before God and others?
4. The Gospel obliterates any notion that we can save ourselves. Nothing we do, no matter how righteous it may be, is good enough to justify us before God. It is God's kindness, and his kindness alone, that leads us to repentance (v. 4b). And yet self-salvation projects persist, even in churches where the Gospel is preached.
- a. What sort of self-salvation projects have you engaged in? What kind of things have you done to earn God's favor and/or avoid God's wrath?
  
  - b. What are some of the most common things we do, especially in the church, to persuade others, ourselves, and God that we are righteous, good, or moral?
5. If you had to choose one word to describe repentance, what would it be? What's your repentance story, that moment—or, perhaps, series of moments—when God's kindness overwhelmed you and you responded to his gracious invitation to come home?
6. If you know someone whose repentance story hasn't been written yet, there's hope. As the Apostle Peter tells us: "The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). Take some time to pray for those who haven't yet experienced the kindness of God that leads us toward repentance.