

Today... the refusal to bake a cake for a gay wedding, for example, does not push the gay couple into starvation or any other form of economic hardship; rather, it offends against their dignity and inflicts psychological harm by refusing to recognize them on their own terms. And that is regarded as very serious because it is politically oppressive in a world in which psychological categories have come to dominate discussion.”

— **The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self by Carl R. Trueman**

---

The inward turn at the Enlightenment may not initially have killed God, but it did make him in practice an increasingly unnecessary hypothesis. This inward turn, the turn to the individual, gave the individual a value—a dignity—that eventually came to stand as independent of any sacred order or set of divine commands.”

— **The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self Carl R. Trueman**

---

How to discern self-righteousness:

- Making secondary issues/doctrines primary
  - Being maliciously pleased when hearing something unpleasant about someone
  - Expressing your opinion about people who have no direct dealings with you.
  - Expressing your opinion without all the knowledge of the facts or circumstance
  - Rarely ready to excuse others or to show mercy
  - Quick to pronounce judgment
  - Quick to believe the worst
  - Quick to give digs
  - Sarcastic
  - Cynical
  - Rehearsing in your minds how to tell the person off
  - More aware of others’ weakness and sins than the evidences of grace in their lives
  - Others are more aware of your criticism than your affirmation
- 

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

**James 4:11-12**

We judge others—criticize, nit-pick, nag, attack, condemn—because we literally play God. This is heinous. [The Bible says,] “There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you to judge your neighbor?” Who are you when you judge? None other than a God wannabe. In this we become like the Devil himself.

— **David Powlison**

---

... an idol is any desire that has grown into a consuming demand that rules our hearts; it is something we think we must have to be happy, fulfilled, or secure. To put it another way, it is something we love, fear, or trust. Love, fear, trust—these are words of worship.”

— **The Peacemaker by Ken Sande**

---

Idols always demand sacrifices. When someone fails to satisfy our demands and expectations, our idol demands that he should suffer. Whether deliberately or unconsciously, we will find ways to hurt or punish people so that they will give in to our desires. This punishment can take many forms. Sometimes we react in overt anger, lashing out with hurtful words to inflict pain on those who fail to meet our expectations. When we do so, we are essentially placing others on the altar of our idol and sacrificing them, not with pagan knives, but with the sharp edge of our tongues. Only when they give in to our desire and give us what we want will we stop inflicting pain upon them.”

— **The Peacemaker by Ken Sande**

---

But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

**1 Corinthians 11:31-32**

---

When you find yourself in conflict, work backwards through the progression of an idol to identify the desires that are controlling your heart. Ask yourself these questions: How am I punishing others? How am I judging others? What am I demanding to have? What is the root desire of that demand?”

— **The Peacemaker by Ken Sande**

---

And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

**Jude 22-23**