

19 February 2014

“Light of the World”



Shame

1. Can you think of any examples of public shaming? Do you agree/disagree with these approaches?
2. What would a ‘shameless’ society look like?
3. Are feelings of shame always justified?

Judgement

4. Do sexual sins get singled out for judgment and criticism more than other kinds of sin?
5. “When you judge another, you do not define them, you define yourself (Wayne Dyer).” Do you agree or disagree?
6. When was a time you formed an impression of someone before getting to know them?
7. Do you remember a time when someone judged you without properly knowing you? Was it difficult to change their mind? What did it feel like when you were judged or misunderstood?
8. Jesus said, “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Is it ever appropriate to “judge”?

Forgiveness

9. What does it feel like when someone shows compassion or extends forgiveness?
10. Are there any prerequisites for being forgiven?
11. Does being forgiven make it easier to forgive others? If so, why do there appear to be divisions within communities of faith?
12. It is generally accepted that forgiveness is good for one’s soul. But what about as a community? Would forgiving a criminal look like condoning that person’s actions?
13. If we could physically see confirmation of our forgiveness, would it make a difference in our spiritual journey? How can we know we are really forgiven?

Light of the World

14. Are we like mirrors, merely reflecting God's light to others, or do we have any light in and of ourselves? Do people need God in order to be good? Can people “light up the world’ without God?
15. Does shining God's light mean that we will all become Christian clones?