

## Judging

Matthew 7:1 “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. 2 For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. 3 “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? 4 How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye. 6 “Don’t waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don’t throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you. 7 “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 “You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? 10 Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! 11 So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him. 12 “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

**Verse 1** is not a blanket prohibition against all judgment, but a warning against *hypocrisy* and *self-righteousness*.

**Verses 3-5** point out hypocrisy and idolatry.

Galatians 6:1 Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

**Verse 6:** Don’t give what is holy to a dog or a pig and expect that they will treat it as precious.

**Verses 7-11** How to get help to obey in this matter

**Verse 12:** Jesus sums up the whole issue

### **Some Do’s and Don’ts about Judging**

#### **We CAN/Should judge (Evaluate/Analyze) the ACTIONS of Believers**

#### **We can properly be critical of what the Bible is critical of:**

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

Galatians 1:6-9 requires judging of doctrine

Galatians 6:1 requires judging of conduct

Ephesians 5:7 requires judging the conduct of others and oneself

1 Thessalonians 5:14 requires judging of what constitutes unruly conduct

2 Thessalonians 3:6-14 requires judging the walk (external conduct) of another

#### **Rather than just judging:**

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Hebrews 10:24 Let us think of ways/look for ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

2 Timothy 2:24 A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.

Romans 14:19 Let us therefore *make every effort* to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification..

#### **Make sure criticism is based on *truth* - criticism based on hearsay is not helpful; it is gossip.**

Proverbs 18:13 Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.

#### **Some Don’ts About Judging:**

**Don’t Label - Our sins or faults do not define us.**

## **DON't Judge UNBELIEVERS**

1 Corinthians 5:9 When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. 10 **But I wasn't talking about unbelievers** who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. 11 I meant that **you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people.** Don't even eat with such people. 12 **It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders.....**

## **DO Expose Darkness..... with Light; the darkness IN BELIEVERS**

Ephesians 5:10 Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. 11 Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead / but rather, **expose** them. 12 It is shameful even to talk about the things that **ungodly** people do in secret. 13 But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, 14 for the light makes everything visible.

## **Do warn the wicked but don't be wrathful in the way we do it**

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

## **Do Beware of a critical spirit / judgementalism**

1 Corinthians 13: 4 Love is patient and kind; does not envy or boast; not arrogant 5 or rude, does not insist on its own way; not irritable or resentful; does not rejoice at wrongdoing, rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

## **Note: Unbiblical criticism leads to SHAME (I am bad vs. I did bad.)**

**Biblical** criticism is **helpful, loving, based on truth. Correction** is to be **gentle**. It comes from love.

Galatians 5:22-23 If criticism cannot be expressed in keeping with the fruit of the Spirit, it's better left unsaid.

## **So....BE like JESUS..Do like Jesus does:**

**LOVE** - 1 Peter 4:7 The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. 8 Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

**LIVE** - 1 John 2:6 Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

**PRAY** - 1 John 5: 16 If you see a Christian brother or sister sinning in a way that does not lead to death, you should pray, and God will give that person life.

**EDIFY** - Jude 1: 20 But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, 21 and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love.

**RESCUE** - Jude 22 And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. 23 Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives.

## **The Answer is GRACE**