

Misconceptions – Judge Not!

Matthew 7:1 “Judge not, that you be not judged.

- So many people use this wrong. Like We should never judge anyone.

5 things the Bible says about judging

1. Don't judge hypocritically.
2. We cannot judge someone else's salvation
3. We are to judge people's words and actions
4. We cannot judge other people's motives.
5. We are to judge all things spiritual, whether teachings, prophecies, or whether a person is worthy of support or following.

Don't Judge Hypocritically

Matthew 7:1-5 “Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. ³ And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, “Let me remove the speck from your eye”; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”

- This is not prohibiting judgement, but is a part of how to judge.
- Your judgement must be fair and only by a standard that you are willing to be judged by.
- This helps us come from a place of mercy, grace, and love.
- First judge yourself and then after dealing with yourself can you look at others.
- The intent here is that we are helping them. Removing a speck from their eye is helpful.

Within this I will also include don't judge by appearances.

- **1 Samuel 16:7** But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For *the LORD* does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
- **John 7:24** Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

We cannot judge someone else's salvation

- Parable of the wheat and tares
 - We do not have all the information to know if someone is saved or not. Only God knows this one.
- **Matthew 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" ²³ And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"
 - There are some we think that are saved that are not, and probably some we think are not but are.
- **John 8:7** So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."
 - Jesus gets final judgement

We are to judge people's words and actions

Matthew 7:15-20 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

- **1 Corinthians 5:12** For what *have I to do* with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?
- We are to judge Christians by their actions and words.
- But not unbelievers.
- Discernment is a gift of the Spirit. That is judging between evil and good.
 - **Hebrews 5:14** But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
- This judging must use the Word of God as the standard. Not our own standards.
- The Bible calls for universal love, but not universal acceptance.

We cannot judge other's motives

- **1 Corinthians 4:5** Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.
- Again, we just do not have access to all the information necessary to make this judgement.
- Meditating on why someone did something is not only unproductive, it can also lead to placing the wrong motives behind what may have been an innocent action.
- Parable of Pharisee and Tax Collector praying:
- **Luke 18:9-14** Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, "God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' ¹³ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who

exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

We are to judge all things spiritual, whether teachings, prophecies, or whether a person is worthy of support or following.

- **1 John 4:1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:21** Test all things; hold fast what is good.
- **Galatians 1:6-9** I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.
- We must be actively against any teachings or prophecies that are not from God, and pursuing truths that are from God.
- Judging those things is the only way to do that
- And we can label those that falsely teach or prophesy as false, based on that we can judge actions.

But we don't judge their salvation.