

“Judge Not”



Matthew 7:1-5

Intro

Self-righteous Judgmentalists use judgments to ignore their own consciences, elevate themselves, and to control and subjugate other people.

“You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God” (Luke 16:15).

“to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt...” (Luke 18:9).

Self-Righteous Judgmentalist vs Loving, Caring Advocate

Scripture calls us to discernment.

“mature” men and women “who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil” (Hebrews 5:14).

“I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive” (Romans 16:17-18).

“As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him” (Titus 3:10).

“If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed” (2 Thessalonians 3:14).

“having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people” (2 Timothy 3:5).

“If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting” (2 John 10).

I. THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENTALIST

"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you" (Matthew 7:1-2).

"Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer" (Romans 14:13).

Jesus condemned all such judging from people.

"You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me" (John 8:15-16).

Jesus Christ came to *save* people, not to judge them.

"If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day" (John 12:47-48).

God *alone* is Judge

"Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls" (Romans 14:4).

"Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.' So then each of us will give an account of himself to God" (Romans 14:10-12).

"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).

"The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge!" (Psalm 50:6).

"Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed" (Romans 2:1-5).

"Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 'The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so practice and observe whatever they tell you— but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by others'" (Matthew 23:1-5).

“But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me” (1 Corinthians 4:3-5).

Be careful in your judgments.

“Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment” (John 7:24).

II. THE LOVING, CARING ADVOCATE

“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye” (Matthew 7:3-5).

“Advocate” Gk *Paraclete* = ‘one who comes alongside another to support them, to uphold them.’

The “speck” does need to come out.

The greater issue is the “log” that is in the observer’s eye.

“but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers” (Luke 22:32).

The motive and objective in using discernment to help another believer who is struggling with sin is *love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith*” (1 Timothy 1:5).

“in Christ,” [no demanded moralized behavior borne out of legalism] “counts for anything, but only faith working through love” (Galatians 5:6).

“...through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (Galatians 5:13-14).

“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself” (Galatians 6:1-4).

“When...Christians do not ‘serve one another by love,’ the law of Christ is not fulfilled but violated” (Brown).

“For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God” (Hebrews 7:19).

The Law of Moses is powerless to save – and it is equally powerless to *sanctify*.

“We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, ‘The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.’ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the

encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God” (Romans 15:1-7).