

## Biblical Judging

### We are living in a “Judging Averse” Society

No Fault Mentality

Society and Environment problems, rather than individual responsibility

Things are relative, no absolutes. Subjective value system. No right or wrong

This has crept into the church. Many Evangelical Leaders have adopted this “no judgment philosophy.”

### Definitions

Judge (.v)

To hear and determine a case; to examine and decide.

Rightly to understand and **discern**; to censure, to pass sentence.

To esteem; to think; to reckon; to punish.

Discern (.v)

To distinguish; to see the difference between two or more things; To discover by the intellect; to distinguish; hence, to have knowledge of; **to judge**.

In Scripture, the spirit of wisdom and prudence, enabling a person to discern right and wrong, good and evil.

Discerner (.n)

One who sees, discovers or distinguishes; an observer.

One who knows and **judges**; Distinguishing; seeing; discovering; knowing;

**judging**. Having power to discern; capable of seeing, discriminating, **knowing and judging**;

I perceive we are more comfortable with “discern” than with “judge,” although there is little difference. One seems to define the other

**I judge** sermons based on my understanding of truth

**I judge** people’s tales – the woman who came into the church for help.

**I judge** if people are saved, based on their answers to questions in door to door witnessing

### What does the Scripture say?

Examine Matthew 7: Judge not, that ye be not judged

Condemned:

Hypocritical judging

Literally “**stop walking around criticizing**”

Critical Spirit

Judging Motives

Also Condemned: Judging a weaker brother (Ro 14:4)

Also used as a proof text for NOT judging:

James 4:11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law:

but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. **Out of context: DO NOT SLANDER YOUR BROTHER. Do not tear DOWN with evil intent.**

So, this limited and erroneous understanding is guiding the churches in this area of “judging”

#### **Scriptural Requirement:**

Righteous judging (John 7:24) Judge not according to the appearance, **but judge righteous judgment.** Based on Biblical Truth and Biblical Principles.

Mt 7:5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and **then shalt thou see clearly** to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

#### **Quotes:**

##### **Pulpit Commentary**

Matthew 7:1-12

v. 1. Judge not. Not merely "do not condemn," for this would leave too much latitude; nor, on the other hand, "do not ever judge," **for this is sometimes our duty;** but "do not be always judging" Our Lord opposes the **ensorious spirit.** "Let us therefore be lowly minded, brethren, laying aside all arrogance, and conceit, and folly, and anger, and let us do that which is written.

Matthew 7:5

v. 5.. Thou hypocrite, First cast out the beam out of thine own eye, In ver. 3 the order of the words lays the emphasis on "thine;" here, on the eye. It is in thine eye, of all places, that the beam now is. And then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. Surely a promise as well as a statement. **The verse seems to imply that if the spirit of censoriousness be absent, it will be possible for us to remove "motes" from the eyes of our brothers.**

Matthew 18:15

Verses 15-20. - Correction of an offending brother.

Verse 15. - First, private remonstrance: **Go.** Do not wait for him to come to you; make the first advances yourself. This, as being the more difficult course, is expressly enjoined on one who is learning the lesson of humility. **Tell him his fault;** Put the fault plainly before him, show him how he has wronged you, and **how he has offended God.** This must be done in private, gently, mercifully.

##### **Wiersbe**

A. *Judging (Mat. 7:1–5).*

**Christ is not telling us to avoid evaluating people or not to use our God-given wisdom** (see 1 John 4:1–6). The world is full of false Christians and even ministers of Satan (2 Cor. 11:13–15). As never before, Christians must be alert and must **“try the spirits”** (1 John 4:1). What Christ is **condemning is harsh judgment and unjust criticism of others’**

**motives.** Note that He uses the symbol of the eye. In 6:22–23, Christ defined “the eye” as the spiritual outlook of a person, that which motivates one’s life. **Every believer has the obligation to test others by their fruits (vv. 15–20)**, but no Christian should ever judge motives (see Rom. 14 and 1 Cor. 4:5).

This command of **Christ does not prohibit church discipline. He tells us to face disobedient Christians honestly and humbly, examine the evidence, and deal with sin decisively** (see 18:15–18; 1 Cor. 5). The Christian who says that church discipline is not biblical should read 2 Thes. 3:11–15 and Gal. 6:1–5.

Christ gives us the right to help others after we have straightened out our own lives. He did not say that it was wrong for you to help your brothers or sisters get rid of their sins; but He did say that first you should take care of your own sin.

### **Bible Knowledge Commentary**

Mat. 7:1-6 (Luke 6:41-42). A final illustration of Pharisaic practices pertains to judging. The Pharisees were then judging Christ and finding Him to be inadequate. He was not offering the kind of kingdom they anticipated or asking for the kind of righteousness they were exhibiting. So they rejected Him. **Jesus therefore warned them against hypocritical judging.**

**This passage does not teach that judgments should never be made;** Matthew 7:5 *does* speak of removing the speck from your brother’s eye. The Lord’s point was that **a person should not be habitually critical or condemnatory of a speck of sawdust in someone else’s eye when he has a plank**—a strong hyperbole for effect—in his own eye.

### **Biblical Judging is Demanded for:**

Church discipline (Mat 18:15ff)  
 Judging good and bad fruit Mat 5:15-23  
 Judging : Beware of dogs Phil 3:1-2  
 Judging Sin (I Cor 5)  
 Judging False Teachers (I John 4)  
 Judging preaching (Acts 17:11 - Bereans)  
 Judge all things . (He that is spiritual, judgeth all things. 1 Cor.2)

### **Positive Aspects of Biblical Judging**

Keeps the church pure (I.e. A family at GBC)  
 Helps brothers and sister through difficult times (Family in VA)

### **Requirement for Biblical Judging**

A pure heart – NO BEAM in your eye  
 Proper motives for judging others – to help them  
 Bathed in prayer  
 Concern about your brother’s relationship with the Lord