

## TO JUDGE OR JUDGE NOT...

### Against the Grain – Part 7

(A study of the Sermon on the Mount: Matt. 5-7)

Matthew 7:1-5

May 23, 2010

*“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.”* Matthew 7:1-2

#### 1. Why do we love the command to “judge not”?

- It makes us feel that no one should be able to confront our (bad choices) or destructive behavior.
- It helps us to feel that any ideas about moral right and wrong are totally (subjective).

#### 2. What does the Bible say about not judging others?

*“There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?”* – James 4:12

*“Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts.”* – 1 Corinthians 4:5

*“Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another.”* – Romans 14:13

#### 3. When does the Bible say it is right to judge others?

- We are to watch out for and identify (false teachers).  
*“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit, you will recognize them.”* – Matthew 7:15-16
- We are to make judgments when there are disputes among believers.

*“If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the saints are to judge the world, are they not competent to judge trivial cases?”* – 1 Corinthians 6:1-2

- We are to recognize the difference between real Christians and (pretenders).

*“Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.”* – Matthew 7:20-21

- We are to identify and confront (sinful lifestyles) within the church.

*“Even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present. ...now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.”* – 1 Corinthians 5:3, 11  
1 Timothy 5:19-20

#### 4. What principles should guide us in making judgments about people?

- The (Bible) must be our standard for judging right and wrong.

*“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword...it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”* – Hebrews 4:12

- In some instances we simply need to rest in the judgment and justice of God.

*“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for*

*the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”*

– 2 Corinthians 5:10

- Lost people are going to (act lost), so judgment is reserved for those in the family of God.  
*“What business of mine is it to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. ‘Expel the wicked man from among you.’”* – 1 Corinthians 5:12-13
- Judgment should always seek to lead to correction, redemption, and restoration.  
*“If your brother sins against you, go show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two brothers along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”* – Matthew 18:15-17  
Galatians 6:1
- The “Golden Rule” is a great guide when it comes to judging others.  
*“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.”* – Matthew 7:12  
*“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”* – Matt. 5:7
- I should be more concerned about (my own) conduct than I am about anyone else’s behavior.  
  
*“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”* – Matthew 7:3-5

## “Digging Deeper” Scripture Readings

Monday:	Romans 14:1-23
Tuesday:	James 4:1-17
Wednesday:	1 Corinthians 5:1-13
Thursday:	Romans 2:1-16
Friday:	James 2:1-26