

ON JUDGEMENT AND BEING JUDGMENTAL

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Matthew 7:1-5

1. The Bible has a lot to say about judging and being judgmental, and because it does we should approach the whole matter seriously.
2. Matthew 7:1 is one of the verses in the Bible that many people take out of context by quoting it whenever someone speaks out on, or confronts, some issue related to morality or behavior.
3. They are quick to say, "Well, the Bible says we're not supposed to judge."
4. To interpret this passage in that way is to misinterpret what Jesus was teaching.
5. This approach also contradicts the Scriptures when taken as a whole.
6. We only need to read verses six through twenty in this chapter to know that Jesus was not telling us never to judge anyone.
7. The Bible clearly teaches that the church has a responsibility to expect accountability and to administer discipline.
 - a. In matters related to fellowship. Matthew 18:15-18 (See also 1 Corinthians 6:1-11)

"If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.** 17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."
 - b. In matters related to morality. 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. 2 You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

3 For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5 I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? 7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler — not even to eat with such a one. 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 But those who are outside, God judges. **REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.**

c. In matters of doctrine. Romans 16:17-18 (See also Revelation 2;1-7)

Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. 18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

NOTE: However we are not to judge one another in matters of personal choice and preferences. Romans 14

8. In interpreting this passage we need to remember who was being addressed.

a. Those who possess Christian character as described in the Beatitudes.

b. Those who are committed to being salt and light.

c. Those who possess true righteousness.

d. Those who love others.

e. Those who give, pray, and practice self-denial as an outgrowth of their “secret” relationship with God the Father.

f. Those who are trusting God in the everyday affairs of life.

g. Those who are seeking first and foremost God’s Kingdom and God’s righteousness.

I. Do not judge lest you be judged by God. 1

A. As believers we must always remember that we are accountable to God for our actions and our attitudes.

B. There are three aspects of judgment we need to be concerned about.

1. Final and eternal judgment. (Those who are in Christ do not need to fear this judgment because Jesus has already experienced it for us.)

2. God’s judgment of His children in this life. 1 Cor 11:27-32

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. 28 But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. 30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. 31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

3. The judgment seat of Christ.

a. Romans 14:10-12

But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD." 12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

b. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

C. I would paraphrase Jesus’ words in verse one this way, “Do not judge wrongly, blindly, lest you be judged by God for doing so.”

D. Judgment is a serious matter, yet we are often guilty of judging others with little thought about the fact that God may have issues with us that we are either ignoring or blind to.

II. As a child of God how do you want to be judged in this life and at the Judgment Seat of Christ? 2

A. I want to be judged by a judge who can understand and sympathize with my weaknesses and extend to me mercy and grace.

B. Jesus clearly stated that you and I will be judged by the standard we ourselves have set.

NOTE: Remember that Jesus was speaking to a select group of people who were His true followers.

III. We have no right to judge others if we are not concerned about, and dealing with, the issues in our own lives. 3-5

A. It has been my experience that many judgmental, and critical people in the church have serious issues in their own lives that they are blind to or unwilling to deal with.

B. Jesus does not say that we should not be concerned about the speck in our brother's eye.

C. He does say that we are not going to do our brother much good if our vision is obstructed by issues we are failing to deal with.

D. Paul gave us some clear guidance in Galatians 6:1-5.

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. 5 For each one will bear his own load.

APPLICATION

1. God judged the church at Corinth for its failure to judge themselves as a church and as individuals.

2. I wonder to what degree is the judgment of God upon the modern American church for its failure to take seriously issues related to fellowship, conduct, and doctrine?

3. On the other hand to what degree is the judgment of God upon us as His children for our tendency to judge others while failing to confront and deal with sin in our own lives?

4. Finally, we have a responsibility to exercise judgment, but we had better exercise it in keeping with Scripture, in love and humility, and guided by the Holy Spirit, because we are determining the standard to which God will hold us accountable.