

Is It Ever Right To Judge?

“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 back to you. 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 7:1-5**

I. Introduction

Judge: *“to distinguish; to condemn; to conclude; to resolve; to pronounce judgment; to assume the office of a judge.”*

Nowadays, society has been deceived into believing that judging anything is a crime!

Consider This:

- Jesus, in the verses right after this, tells us to make judgments about people and their response to the good news of Jesus.
- In other parts of the gospels, Jesus said to expose false teachers and to admonish others in order to help them. *How can we determine what’s false if we don’t judge it against what is true?*
- Both Jesus and Paul taught that we should exercise church discipline. That means we need to point out things that are sin and deal with it as sin. **(I Corinthians 5:1-8)**
- Jesus and Paul both point out things that society says are right but that God says they are wrong and that we are to consider sin because God considers them sin. **(I Corinthians 6:1-11)**
- There are some things, actions, behaviors, and lifestyle choices that God calls sin, no matter what society says about how acceptable it is or should be.

“We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.” - Plato

II. The 3 Things That Are Always Wrong Regarding the Issue of Judging

1. A

“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 back to you.” **Matthew 7:1-2**

“Don’t pick on people, jump on their failures, and criticize their faults— unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging.” **Matthew 7:1-2 (Mess.)**

*“For **God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world**, but to save the world through Him.”* **John 3:17**

2. The _____

“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**

*“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather **think of yourself with sober judgment**, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”* **Romans 12:3**

So...how are we supposed to think of ourselves? - Answer: **With sober judgment!**

“They who are conscious of their own sins have no eyes for the sins of their neighbors.”
- Abbot Moses (10th century AD)

“The unexamined life is not worth living.” - Plato

3. Judging the _____ of another

“The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand...So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way.” **Romans 14:3-4; 12-13**

III. Biblical “Rules of Thumb” To Follow When Bringing Correction

If you really see the need to point something out in someone’s life that you see is either against Scripture or dangerous to that person, then you need to do three things...

1.) Check your _____.

2.) Check your _____.

“Before you criticize a man, walk a mile in his shoes. That way, when you do criticize him, you’ll be a mile away and have his shoes.”- Steve Martin (Theologian)

3.) Check your _____.

“Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.” **II Timothy 2:23-26**

Here’s an idea: Pray about what you want to say before you go in to talk with someone.

“God never gives us discernment in order that we may criticize, but that we may intercede.”
- Oswald Chambers

4. Despite the madness of this age, remember that if God’s Word _____ --- it is _____!

*"But as it is, I wrote to you not to keep company, if any man who is named a brother is a sexual sinner, or covetous, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner. **Don't even eat with such a person.**" I Corinthians 5:11*

(See also Rev.20:11-15; 21:8; Colossians 3:5-7; II Peter 3:10-13; II Timothy 3:16)

Key point to remember: God judges - even believers will be judged!!!

*"For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." II Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV)*

*"All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but **the word of the LORD endures forever**..." I Peter 1:24-25 (NKJV)*

*"The entirety of Your word is truth, and **every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever**." Psalm 119:160 (NKJV)*

*"The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; **the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether**." Psalm 19:9 (NKJV)*

*"Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns; the world also is firmly established, it shall not be moved; **He shall judge the world's peoples righteously**." Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the LORD. **For He is coming---He is coming to judge the earth**. He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth." Psalm 96:10-13 (NKJV)*

Remember, Scripture doesn't tell us not to judge. Scripture tells us to make sure that as we judge, we must rely on the only firm foundation for making right and sound judgments -
God's Holy, unchanging, binding Word!

ANSWER KEY:

II. The 3 Things That Are Always Wrong Regarding the Issue of Judging

1. critical spirit
2. unexamined life
3. heart or motives

III. Biblical “Rules of Thumb” To Follow When Bringing Correction

1. accuracy
2. attitude
3. approach
4. judges it----JUDGED!