

# To Judge Or Not To Judge?

(Matthew 7:1-5)

- Introduction:
1. Matthew 7:1 just may be the most quoted passage in all the Bible and possibly one of the most misunderstood.
  2. There are at least two difficulties we must be careful to avoid when judging others.
    - a. Quick, unfair evaluations.
    - b. The tendency to hold others to a more strict standard than ourselves.
  3. Let's look at what the Bible says about judging.

## I. Some Judgment Is Commanded

- A. Matthew 7 is not an end-all pronouncement on the subject of judging.
- B. (John 4:24) We are commanded to judge.
- C. (1 Thessalonians 5:21) We must judge between what is good and bad.
- D. (Matthew 7:16) We identify false teachers by identifying their fruit.
- E. (Matthew 7:6) We must be able to identify a "swine" and a "dog."

## II. How To Avoid The Wrong Kind Of Judgment

- A. Examine yourself first & Don't Be Hypocritical.
  1. (Matthew 7:5).
  2. (2 Corinthians 13:5; Romans 2:1-4).
  3. For some reason, our sin never seems quite as bad as someone else's sin.
- B. Get The Facts & Don't Rush To Judgment.
  1. According the U.S. law, a man is innocent until proven guilty.
  2. The same is true with God's law (1 Corinthians 13:7).
  3. (James 1:19).
- C. Show Mercy.
  1. (Matthew 7:2).
  2. (Matthew 5:7; James 2:13).
- D. Deal As Privately As Possible.
  1. (Matthew 18:15).

- Conclusion:
1. What kind of judging do you do?
  2. You can't cop out by saying you don't judge, because you do, and in fact you're commanded to judge.
  3. Remember that Jesus didn't condemn judging, he condemned critical, rash, hypocritical judging.