

INTRODUCTION:

“Judge not, lest you be judged.” This portion of Scripture (Matt 7:1) is often quoted but misunderstood. As believers, we are called to judge but not in the sense of condemnation, but in exercising discernment. The objective of this topical lesson is to help educate and equip us to...

- Evaluate our hearts to identify if we are being judgmental or discerning.
- Estimate the actions of others if they are being judgmental or discerning.
- Implement Biblical principles of discernment.

I. Definitions

- a. Judgment – “The act of judging; the act or process of the mind in comparing its ideas, to find their agreement or disagreement, and to ascertain truth.”

[Webster’s 1828]

- b. Judgmental – “Characterized by a tendency to judge harshly.” [Merriam-Webster Dictionary]

- c. Discrimination – “Treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction in favor of or against, a person or thing based on the group, class, or category to which that person or thing belongs rather than on individual merit.” [Dictionary.com]

- d. Discernment – “The act of discerning; also the power or faculty of mind, by which it distinguishes one thing from another, as truth from falsehood, virtue from vice; acuteness of judgment.” [Webster’s 1828]

II. Scriptural Allowance for Righteous Judgment

- a. Our own hearts

- i. 1Co 11:28-31 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh

unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

- ii. 2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

b. Stumbling blocks to other believers

- i. Rom 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

c. All Things

(Notice that it is all things and not all people)

- 1. 1Co 2:14-15 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

- a. Context is a spiritually minded man versus a carnally minded man.
- b. This assumes the standard is godly standard
- c. Joh 16:7-14 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will

reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. 12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

2. 1Th 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
3. Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
 - a. What standard are we called to avoid?
 - b. What standard are we called to adhere?

ii. Spirits

1. 1Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

III. Scriptural Aversion for Rash Judgment

a. It is shameful

- i. Pro 18:13 He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

b. It is unscriptural

- i. Joh 7:50-51 Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,) 51 Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?

c. It is shallow

- i. 1Sa 1:12-14 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. 13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. 14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.
- ii. 1Sa 16:6-7 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him. 7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.
- iii. Joh 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.
 1. Appearance – according to what we SEE
 2. Righteous – according to what God SAYS (Scripture)

IV. Scriptural Avoidance of Wrong Judgmenta. Condemning Preferences

- i. Rom 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

b. Condemning People

i. Jas 4:11-12 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. 12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

1. Speaking evil against your brother is the same as speaking evil against the Law.

a. Speaking against an image bearer of God contrary to the Law of God holds both the image bearer and the Law of God in contempt.

b. Jas 2:4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

2. Judging a brother is the same as judging the Law.

a. Judging a legally justified saint attempts to usurp the throne of Christ

b. Rom 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

c. Condemning Purposes

i. Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- ii. 1Sa 16:6-7 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him. 7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

V. Scriptural Assessment for Judgement

One Who Discerns . . .	One Who Judges . . .
<p>Will thoroughly examine himself before evaluating the actions of others.</p> <p><i>"But let every man prove his own work" (Galatians 6:4).</i></p> <p><i>"But let a man examine himself" (I Corinthians 11:28).</i></p> <p><i>"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged" (I Corinthians 11:31).</i></p> <p><i>"Examine yourselves . . . prove your own selves" (II Corinthians 13:5).</i></p>	<p><i>Will condemn others for their visible problems but fail to realize that their attitudes stem from root problems that he himself has not yet overcome.</i></p> <p><i>"Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doeth the same things" (Romans 2:1).</i></p> <p><i>"But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ" (Romans 14:10).</i></p>
<p>Will check the accuracy of all the facts and related facts before</p>	<p>Will form opinions based on first impressions or hearsay, and then he</p>

<p>reaching a conclusion. (When called to a role requiring a judgment call, i.e. mediation, counseling, etc.)</p> <p><i>"But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man" (I Corinthians 2:15).</i></p> <p><i>"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thessalonians 5:21).</i></p> <p><i>"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God" (I John 4:1).</i></p>	<p>will look for evidence to confirm his opinions, though the evidence may be out of context.</p> <p><i>"Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24).</i></p> <p><i>"Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him? " (John 7:51).</i></p> <p><i>"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" (James 4:11).</i></p>
<p>Will deal as privately as possible with problems he sees.</p> <p><i>Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers" (I Corinthians 6:5–6).</i></p> <p><i>Pro 25:9-10 Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a</i></p>	<p>Will publicly expose those whom he condemns. This censure may cause others to condemn him for having the same root problem, such as pride, lack of love, or a critical spirit.</p> <p><i>"Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven" (Luke 6:37).</i></p>

<p><i>secret to another: 10 Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away.</i></p>	
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I. Works Cited

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