

I. What does it mean to judge?

- A. to decide who or what is right in a given case
- B. to announce that decision publicly by speaking it or acting on it
- C. We judge, in the loose sense of making decisions, constantly and often without much thought.

II. We are commanded to judge.

- A. Judge ourselves. (Luke 12:57-59)
 - i. "Judge of yourselves" - deal with your sin and conflict before you face God. (Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8; Hebrews 12:6; 1 Corinthians 11-12; Galatians 6)
 - ii. God is *right now* a judge, who will discipline His children – judge yourselves so that doesn't happen to you!
- B. Judge what is true. (John 7:23-24)

III. We are commanded not to judge.

- A. Not to *voice* or *act on* our view of others, even if it is perfectly correct.
- B. Judgment belongs to God.
- C. We have been forgiven an impossible debt. (Matthew 18:23-35)

IV. Obey the royal law.

- A. Today we love this passage. We use it as a bludgeon.
- B. Does love require me to voice my judgment?
- C. Does love require me to act on my judgment?
- D. Does love require me to forbear?
- E. Does love require me to pray? (And why do I criticize much more readily than I pray?)

V. Grace: past, present, and future.

- A. grace is kindness to someone who has been bad
- B. we *have been* forgiven.
- C. we *expect* forgiveness.
- D. furthermore, there is a promise of blessing in this life.

VI. God's has judged the world on the cross of Jesus Christ.

- A. When we see the cross we see forgiveness
- B. When we see the cross we also see the eternal destiny of those who refuse the cross (Psalm 73:16)
- C. When you refuse to judge, you present Jesus Christ, who came to bring fire and sword – but not until He had died for His enemies.