Judge Not, That Ye Be Not Judged

Adam Willingham · Matthew 7:1–5

INTRODUCTION

- It seems like just about everybody knows that somewhere in that Bible it says, judge not that you be not judged. And people are quick to use that to silence Christians.
- In this passage, Jesus is instructing us on how to correct others and how not to correct others.
- We must have a merciful attitude in the way that we view others and deal with others who are in sin.

1 Misinterpreted: All Judging Is Prohibited

Matthew 18:15–17; Luke 17:3; 1 Corinthians 5:3

- Jesus did not mean when he said, judge not that ye be not judged, that we should completely ignore the sins of others.
- There are many scriptures that teach that judging is allowed and more than that, commanded.
- If your brother sins, rebuke him. Is it going to take judging in order to rebuke a brother? Yes. But Jesus commands it.
- If that's what he meant, then evangelism would be impossible. How can we teach the lost to get out of sin if we can't make any judgment about what sin is?
- What Jesus meant in this passage, he was forbidding hypercritical and hypocritical judging.

2 Hypercritical Judging: Have Mercy and Fairness

Matthew 7:1–2; Matthew 18:32–35; John 7:24

- It is defined in the New American Oxford Dictionary as excessively and unreasonably critical.
- So we need to be careful what standard of measure we use. Make sure it's not a hypercritical or a harsh, unmerciful standard.
- Brethren, our God will be merciful with us if we are merciful with others.
- The proper attitude to have is one of mercy and fairness. Do not hold up an impossible harsh standard to others, leaving no room for error, leaving no room for growth.
- Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.
- We need to be very careful not to make snappy judgments with one another.

3 The Proper Motive and the Proper Approach

Galatians 6:1

- The proper motive in addressing somebody's error or sin is to help people go to heaven.
- He who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.
- There is one lawgiver who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?
- The proper approach is gentleness.

- You who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself, lest you also be tempted.

4 Hypocritical Judging, Being Corrected

Matthew 7:3–5; Matthew 23:2–4; Romans 2:1–3

- Jesus is teaching here not to try to go and correct the small faults of others when you have some greater sin in your life.
- First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.
- So take the log out. What does that mean in practical terms? It means repent.
- Before we can remove the log, we've got to first notice that it's even there.
- If you are living in habitual sin, you do not have the right to be upset about the sin around you.
- Also realize that you don't have to be perfect to address the sins of others.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Let us strive to rid ourselves of sin. Let us remember to use mercy and judgment towards others. In a way, we really need to become conduits of the grace of God.**

MY NOTES