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## Should We Judge or Not?

By Taylor Braswell January 8, 2024

### **TODAY'S READING:** Matthew 7

It could be easy to read Matthew 7:1-5 and believe we should not judge other people. In fact, many people in our culture today take these verses and use them as proof that we should not judge how anyone else lives or believes. I want to clear up some confusion here. When the world hears “judge,” they only think of someone looking down on others because they believe they are better than them. When Christians think of “judging” others, they should know they are also guilty before God and that they are no better than anyone else. The difference is a believer knows Christ has paid their debt for them on the cross. What Jesus is saying here is that we should not judge others hypocritically. We must hold ourselves to the same biblical standards we want others to live by.

God alone will judge every human who has ever lived and only God can see our hearts to know who is trusting in Christ and who is not. We cannot judge people like God judges them. But, later in Matthew 7:15-20, Jesus tells us we will recognize believers by the fruit their lives produce. How do we know who the false prophets and wolves are? Jesus is clear, we must judge the type of fruit coming from them (vv. 17-20). We do not know who is really saved, but we can look at someone's actions over time and see if they are of God or not. Jesus goes on to say in verses 21-23 that people can say whatever they want, but their actions show what they truly believe. Church, we must be careful not to look at the world and think we are better than them. If not for the grace of God, you would still be lost and a slave to your sins. Do your actions, words, and desires reflect the fruit of the Spirit?

**PRAYER:** God, thank You for opening my eyes to see my need for Christ. Empower me through Your Spirit today to live according to God's standards. Humble me and use other believers in my life to hold me accountable so that I do not get prideful.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Luke 15

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