



Judge Not?

By Jeff Bedwell on January 10, 2022

READING: Luke 6

We live in a world where we are quick to judge one another, often ascribing the worst motivations and actions to those who disagree with us. We too often find ourselves jumping to conclusions without knowing all the facts if it confirms our preconceived notions of other people. How are we to live in a world with very real right and wrong, good and evil, and exercise proper discernment without degenerating into hypocritical judgment?

As we turn to scripture, we see that some types of judging are condemned, but other types of judging are commanded (see vv. 37-45). Some basic principles may help us navigate this challenge as we interact with others in the real world.

1. Start with yourself (vv. 41-42). Every time you find a reason to judge someone else for a word, action or attitude, start by looking inward and see how those words, actions or attitudes may be evident in your own life.
2. Come with a spirit of humility and gentleness, not superiority (vv. 37-38).
3. Focus on facts, not presumptions (vv. 43-44).
4. Evaluate words and actions, not motives. (You can see external fruit, you cannot see someone's heart, even as our words and actions flow from our heart.)
5. Consider scriptural issues, not personal preferences. (Is this really an issue that God's Word speaks to clearly?)
6. Leave the eternal judgments with God.

"Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God" (1 Corinthians 4:5, ESV).
Who am I to judge?

I am a sinner saved by God's grace, indwelt by His Holy Spirit, entrusted with the capacity for rational thinking, informed by the precepts and principles of God's Word, motivated by a love for God and a love for others. I am one commanded by Christ to *"judge with the right judgment"* (John 7:24).

When I do this according to the principles above, I honor God and help myself and others to live out God's best for our lives.

PRAYER: Father, give us the wisdom and grace to be discerning without engaging in hypocritical judging of others. Help us begin in prayer for ourselves and even those whose words or actions have wounded or offended us (vv. 27-28).

TOMORROW'S READING: Luke 7

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