

# To Judge or Not to Judge--Part Two

John Cole / General

We cannot simply remove the responsibility of judging people. Doing so would be an oversimplification that would lead us to error. Since we must judge people, we must judge rightly.

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## › INTRO

Last Sunday, we began by stating the reality that judging people is a greater part of our life than we like to admit.

We share examples like:

- Voting
- Making purchases
- Helping the needy
- Promoting employees
- Trusting leaders
- Investing money
- Paying a neighbor kid to mow a lawn
- Hiring a contractor
- Making friends
- **Supporting a missionary**

We asked the questions:

- Is it wrong?
- Can you live without judging people?
- Is there a correct way to judge?

We discovered that Matthew 7 is actually teaching us how to judge rather than than teaching us not to judge.

**κρίνω: judge, to pass judgement on, consider, separate**

We have titled the message:

**To judge or not to judge, that's not the question.**

We left off with 1 Cor 6 about the need for believers within churches to be able and wise enough to judge within themselves matters pertaining to this life:

**1 Corinthians 6:1–7 KJV 1900**

<sup>1</sup> Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

<sup>2</sup> Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

<sup>3</sup> Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

<sup>4</sup> If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

<sup>5</sup> I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?

<sup>6</sup> But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.

<sup>7</sup> Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather *suffer yourselves to be defrauded*?

I believe we have laid a clear case for the need of believers exercising judgement with people.

Before diving into four more principles of how to judge, I would like to magnify the need.

Consider:

| “Only God can judge me.” —Tupac

While it is true that God is our ultimate Judge, it is not true that He is our only judge.

I get the main point people are making that you can’t live life walking on egg shells about what everyone else thinks about us, but as believers in Christ we need to balance that with the responsibility of being salt, light, and a blameless testimony to the world.

At the same time, we also must exercise judgement to discern light from darkness, good from evil, truth from error, fools from wise people, etc.

| “If you love people, you have no time to judge them.” —Mother Theresa

While this has a good emphasis, it goes a bit far. Bad judgement certainly gets in the way of love, but good judgement directs and enhances our love.

| One writer likened judging to judging the ocean by the top of the water. The top only reveals a very small perspective of what is all happening in the ocean. Martha and I recently experienced that ourselves, and while I agree, **I still would judge the top of the ocean before deciding whether or not to take a boat into it.**

**While**

› PROP

We cannot simply remove the responsibility of judging people.

Doing so would be an oversimplification that would lead us to error.

We must judge people.

Since we must judge people, we must judge rightly.

## › TRANS

I find in this chapter seven principles to help us properly judge people.  
Today, we will just look at the remaining four of them.

## › PRINCIPLES FOR JUDGING OTHERS

#1 Judge Others As You Would Have Them Judge You, vs. 1-2, 12

#2 Judge Yourself First, vs. 3-5

#3 Judge for the Sake of Good, vs. 6

#4 Seek God's Help As You Judge

**Matthew 7:7–11 KJV 1900**

<sup>7</sup> Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

<sup>8</sup> For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

<sup>9</sup> Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

<sup>10</sup> Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

<sup>11</sup> If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

## #5 Remember Right Is Narrow

**Matthew 7:13–14 KJV 1900**

<sup>13</sup> Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

<sup>14</sup> Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

### | 10,000 Sermon Illustrations Narrow Road

| Kreisler, the famous violinist, testified to this point when he said, "Narrow is the road that leads to the life of a violinist. Hour after hour, day after day and week after week, for years, I lived with my violin. There were so many things that I wanted to do that I had to leave undone; there were so many places I wanted to go that I had to miss if I was to master the violin. The road that I traveled was a narrow road and the way was hard."

## #6 Pay Attention to the Fruit of People's Lives

**Matthew 7:15–20 KJV 1900**

<sup>15</sup> Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

<sup>16</sup> Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

<sup>17</sup> Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

<sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

<sup>19</sup> Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

<sup>20</sup> Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

| ILL—In basketball, we were taught to watch the midsection of the opponent we were guarding so that they could not fool us with their dribbling and fakes.

Similarly in life, we ought to watch the fruit of people's lives more than listening to their arguments and reasonings.

Fools and deceivers are cunning in how they present their case and lure followers. Don't be fooled: watch their fruit.

Side note: that is also why you have to be careful not to follow online and **TV preachers and teachers who's fruit you are not able to observe.**

## #7 Let God Judge People's Salvation

**Matthew 7:21–23 KJV 1900**

<sup>21</sup> Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

<sup>22</sup> Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

<sup>23</sup> And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

### | 10,000 Sermon Illustrations Judging

| An interesting thing happened one day in a church where the great American businessman Samuel Colgate was a member. During an evangelistic campaign a prostitute came forward and confessed her sins. She was broken-hearted and wept openly. she asked God to save her soul and expressed a desire to join the church. "I'll gladly sit in some back corner," she said.

| The preacher hesitated to call for a motion to accept her into membership, and for a few moments the silence was oppressive. Finally, a member stood up and suggested that action on her request be postponed.

| At that point Mr. Colgate arose and said with an undertone of sarcasm, "I guess we blundered when we prayed that the Lord would save sinners. We forgot to specify what kind. We'd better ask Him to forgive us for this oversight. The Holy Spirit has touched this woman and made her truly repentant, but apparently the Lord doesn't understand she isn't the type we want Him to rescue."

| Many in the audience blushed with shame. They had been guilty of judging like the Pharisee in the temple who exclaimed self-righteously, "God, I thank You that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers" (Luke 18:11.) Another motion was made and the woman was unanimously received into the fellowship. -H.G.

### | 10,000 Sermon Illustrations Wiser Judge

| Supreme Court Justice Horace Gray once informed a man who had appeared before him in a lower court and had escaped conviction on a technicality, "I know that you are guilty and you know it, and I wish you to remember that one day you will stand before a better and wiser Judge, and that there you will be dealt with according to justice and not according to law."

## › REVIEW

#1 Judge Others As You Would Have Them Judge You, vs. 1-2, 12

#2 Judge Yourself First, vs. 3-5

#3 Judge for the Sake of Good, vs. 6

#4 Seek God's Help As You Judge, vs. 7-11

#5 Remember Right Is Narrow, vs. 13-14

#6 Pay Attention to the Fruit of People's Lives, vs. 15-20

#7 Let God Judge People's Salvation, vs. 21-23

## › CONCLUSION

Judging people is a daily reality for us.

The question is not whether we do it; the question is do we do it rightly.

## › INVITATION

Exercising truly righteous judgment begins by receiving the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Receiving God's grace through Jesus comes with a belief and agreement of God's just judgement for our sin.

Agreeing with God's judgement and believing on Him for His grace enables us to judge with the help of the Holy Spirit, God's Word, and experienced forgiveness.



Believe on Jesus for salvation today.

Learn God's judgement.

Judge others rightly.