

**Matthew 7:1-5:** Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup> For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup> Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when there is the log in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, 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.

**Intro: Sinclair Ferguson:** Chap. 5: The Kingdom of God & its implications; Chap. 6: The Fatherhood of God & the freedom the knowledge of it gives us; Chap. 7: The Judgment of God & the impact it has on the way we live

What is the most famous verse in the Bible? John 3:16?; Today's verse might be the most famous verse in the Bible for the world or for people to quote to defend themselves when they are in sin. (They judge others in this!)

We should be gracious, loving people who turn from being overly critical and turn from hypocrisy so that we might lovingly and humbly correct others for the glory of God, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **1. What Jesus Is Not Saying**

**a. Jesus isn't saying there's no final judgment: V. 2:** For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged

**Matthew 12:36:** I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak

**b. Jesus isn't saying judges in the court of law should not make judgments: Romans 13:1:** Let every person be subject to the governing authorities

**c. Jesus isn't saying we shouldn't discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God: Romans 12:2:**

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- **Matthew 7:6:** Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs

- **1 John 4:1:** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

- **Hebrews 5:14:** But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

**d. Jesus isn't saying we shouldn't declare the judgments of God against sin and sinners:**

- **Matthew 18:15-17:** If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

- **Ephesians 5:11:** Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11:** Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

**e. We must judge rightly according to God's Word: John 7:24:** Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.

- **1 Corinthians 2:15:** The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.

- **Galatians 1:8:** But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

## **2. Jesus Is Saying Don't Have A Critical Spirit**

**Matthew 7:1:** Judge not, that you be not judged.

**Ligon Duncan: a. Don't judge people too harshly or too severely:** Les Miserable: boy stole a pie-hard labor

**b. Don't judge or evaluate people rashly:** Don't be too quick to make judgments about people and their motives and don't judge them based on what others say about this; don't judge them too quickly – get to know them. You might not know all the details of their lives and circumstances.

**c. Don't judge people uncharitably, unlovingly, unmercifully, or with a desire to hurt them: Luke 18:9-14:**

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: <sup>10</sup> "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' <sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

**Ligon Duncan:** We are always to have a loving attitude, even towards those who have faults, even towards those who have faults that have been committed against us, perhaps we should say especially towards those who have faults committed against us and we must correct with a desire to see them built up. But violation of any of those things is an indication of censoriousness. And censoriousness is an evidence of a lack of grace. When we are quick to criticize and to tear down, it is a sign that we ourselves have not adequately appreciated how the Lord has spared us from the judgment which we deserve. (Being amazed by God's grace is key!)

**d. Don't judge people based on personal preferences, but based on the Word of God: Ligon Duncan:** There is a difference between scriptural principles and our personal preferences. And we may not judge one another on the basis of our own individually erected standards. We must not make our personal word law for everyone. When we do, we are judging one another in precisely the way that the Lord says for us not to do here. We must avoid saying what is untrue, what is unloving, what is unnecessary, what is unkind, and we must avoid setting ourselves up as judge in the sense of setting the standards for how others may behave as opposed as to looking at the standards of the word. If we break either of those patterns, we ourselves are engaging in what Jesus calls judging here. Instead, the Lord Jesus wants us to be humble in our self evaluation. He wants us to be generous in our estimation of others, and He wants us to be gentle and loving when we are called to rebuke one another. John Stott once said, "Jesus does not tell us here, to cease to be men by suspending our critical powers, which help distinguish us from the animals. But He tells us here to renounce our presumptuous ambition to be God, by setting ourselves up as judge and lawmaker." This is what Jesus is telling us in this passage. Not that we may not think critically, not that we may not assess or evaluate, but when we do so, we must be generous, we must examine ourselves and we must be loving in our motivations and in our intentions.

**e. Don't only criticize people but encourage them by telling them the good you see in them:** If all you ever do is criticize people, there's a problem. Are you looking for the good in them? Are you telling them about the things they do well? Look for and celebrate evidences of grace in the lives of others.

**f. The key to not being a sinful critic is to be amazed at God's grace to you in Christ: Duncan:** Charles Hodge once said, "No man can be severe in his judgment who feels that the mild eyes of Christ are fixed upon him." Think of Peter in that courtyard. Could Peter have issued a harsh rebuke to the disciples who also fled the Lord Jesus in His hour of need? He himself had known the eyes of Christ on Him in the middle of his defection. Peter knew his heart & the Lord gently restored him. The Lord also changed Peter's heart & made him patient with those who had faults themselves. No man can be severe in his judgment of others who feels that mild eyes of Christ are fixed upon him. The Gospel of grace changes our hearts & enables us to bear with the faults of others.

### **3. Jesus Is Saying A Judgment Day For You Is Coming So Be Careful How You Judge**

**Matthew 7:2:** For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

**Sinclair Ferguson:** That does not mean that God will use the same vindictive principle we sometimes use. Rather, Jesus is saying that the judgment of God on our lives will be based on our lives, and how our hearts expressed themselves in thoughts and acts towards others.

If you judge people harshly & severely, you will prove yourself not to be a child of God, and so you will be judged harshly & severely in hell. If you judge people unlovingly, unmercifully, & with a desire to hurt them, you will prove yourself not to be a child of God, so then you will be judged unlovingly, unmercifully, & hurt in hell. You will be judged by the Word of God. God will judge justly, righteously, & with perfect goodness & holiness.

- **Hebrews 4:12-13:** For the word of God is living & active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul & of spirit, of joints & of marrow, & discerning the thoughts & intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked & exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

- **1 Corinthians 4:5:** 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.

### **4. Jesus Is Saying Don't Judge Like A Hypocrite**

**Matthew 7:3-5:** Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when there is the log in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite

Have you seen your own sin? Are you sensitive to your own sin? Are you convicted of your own sin? **GOSPEL!**

It's like one father rebuking another father for speaking harshly to his child while he is physically abusing his own! It's like one man rebuking another man for looking at porn, while he is looking and porn and committing adultery! It's like one woman rebuking another for wearing a short skirt once, while she herself is posing for a porn mag!

### **5. Jesus Is Saying Correct Your Brother Or Sister With Purity Of Heart**

**Matthew 7:5:** You hypocrite, 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.

**Galatians 6:1:** Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.

**Ligon Duncan:** Do you judge others for small faults and allow great ones in yourself? If you do, that is an area to work on. Do you judge others for small faults and allow yourself room for great sins? Don't do that. Pray that the Lord will give you the grace not to have that sort of a balance in your mind. Do you remember that there are degrees of sins? That there are specks and there are logs. It is not that any sin is insignificant. There is no small sin, because there is no small God. But there are specks, and there are beams. And we ought to be quicker to find the beams in our own life, than we are to find the specks in the lives of others.

Are you more exercised about your own sins than you are about the sins of others? Or do you find yourself being indignant about what other people do wrong, and yet you never stop to repent for your sin? Do you have a tendency to justify yourself, or do you have a lack of sense of personal need for repentance and reformation? A. B. Bruce once said that "Censoriousness is a cheap way of feeling morally superior." It is true my friends. Do you have a tendency to justify yourself by condemning others, or do you lack a sense of need for repentance and reformation in your own life? Do you remember your own sins and then reprove and rebuke and correct in light of the way that you would want to be reprovved and rebuked and corrected if someone were dealing with you for your

sins and faults. Those are all heart considerations that we ought to think of before we go about the loving task of mutually disciplining one another in the Lord.

Jesus gives us here a three-fold pattern for how we can do that and I would like to share that with you. The Lord Jesus says, before we correct, and before we finish our assessment, we must first examine ourselves. We must look at our motives. Why am I exercised about this? Why do I want to assess and evaluate and rebuke this brother for this? What are my methods going to be? How am I going to do this in the most encouraging way, in the most profitable way? What are my intentions? Do I want to feel better about myself, or do I really want to see the church built up and this brother and sister built up? What about my personal sin? Am I guilty of the thing that I am about to rebuke this brother or sister for being guilty of?

**Al Mohler:** Jesus says here's how you are to practice moral judgment: With humility that doesn't start from a posture of superiority; From honesty that begins with the fact that we know we are sinners before we address others as sinners; From a position of grace which understands that the only way we can even understand these things or deal with these things is because even though we are sinners, Christ died for us.

**Looking to Jesus:** Jesus never judged too severely or too harshly! Jesus never judged rashly! Jesus never judged anyone uncharitably, unlovingly, unmercifully, or with a desire to hurt them! Jesus' judgments were always based on the truth of the Word of God. Jesus did not have a hyper-critical spirit, but was always loving, always kind, always gentle, and always encouraging! And what is more humble than allowing yourself to be judged by wicked, hypocritical, sinful men and put to death on a cross for sinners! And He rose!

Remember, Jesus is coming back, & on that day, He will judge all those who are not in Him by faith alone without love, without mercy, & with full intent to hurt & destroy them in hell forever! Flee to Him now & make peace!

Christ Is Judge Of All Creation  
Rightly Measures Every Nation  
Hypocrites He'll Give Damnation  
For He's Righteous Pure Summation  
Of Right Living He's Foundation  
Bore God's Wrath Propitiation  
Took Our Every Condemnation  
Rose Alive Killed Death's Causation

By Faith Alone There's Justification  
We Have New Life Regeneration  
That Leads To His Glorification  
All Praise To God For Such Salvation  
Take All Logs Out Resist Temptation  
Judge In Purity Relation  
Die To Hypocrite Formation  
By Rest In His Great Love Elation!