

“To Judge or Not to Judge”
Matt. 7:1-6 and related passages
January 6, 2019

→ **The Bible commands God’s people to not judge.**

- ◆ We see this in Matt. 7:1-2.
- ◆ We also see it in these other passages:

***Luke 6:37-38** – ³⁷ Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure-- pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.*

***Romans 14:10, 13** – ¹⁰ But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God... ¹³ Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this-- not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.*

***James 4:11-12** – ¹¹ Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?*

- ◆ These commands are clear: judging is sinful.

→ **We must take these commands seriously.**

- ◆ Those who judge will be judged (Matt. 7:1-2).
- ◆ This judgment of the judgmental most likely takes three forms:
 - People judge them in the same sinful ways.
 - God disciplines them according to the same standard they have been applying to others – resulting in hard trials and broken relationships.

→ They might suffer a loss of some eternal rewards. **What is sinful judging?**

- ◆ It is *not* merely recognizing, or even pointing out, sins in others (Matt. 7:3-5)
- ◆ It is *not* making a judgment-call about someone’s overall spiritual state (Matt. 7:6)
- ◆ It is *not* recognizing someone as false teacher or prophet (see Matt. 7:15).
- ◆ It is *not* forgoing certain types of associations with someone based on a true and adequate knowledge of their overall lifestyle (Pro. 16:9; 1 Cor. 15:33).
- ◆ So what *is* sinful judging?

Sinful judging is to magnify the shortcomings that we – rightly or wrongly – perceive in another person to the point that we are led to form and/or to express an *unjustly* negative assessment of that individual.

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- This includes making snap judgments about a person's life based on one error.
- This includes making a mountain out of a person's molehill flaw(s).
- This includes judging the motives of another person.

→ **Why is the Lord so displeased with our sinful judging of others?**

- ◆ When we judge in the way described above, we are arrogantly usurping the place of God.
- ◆ Sinful judging inevitably leads us to attitudes and behaviors that our unlike our Lord's.
 - Judgmental people become fussy, aloof, angry, petty, suspicious, etc.
 - Our Lord is none of those things to His people, despite the fact that He truly knows our real sinfulness better than anyone.