

Judging and Judgment

Judge Not

Jesus said in Matthew 7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged." This is where most people stop and use this sentence out of context like a command, however, this is not the end of this paragraph. When we are confronted with this statement or one of its parallels like "Don't you judge me" or "Who are you to judge me," what is our response? People who say these things may be suffering from conviction, condemnation, or insecurity. In these times we need the Holy Spirit to guide us on how to move forward with the person. What is important is leading that person to Jesus.

In this scripture passage (Matthew 7:1-5) we see a couple of dynamics. First Jesus is addressing the Pharisee's "righteousness by works" culture that was ingrained in the people. Much of the sermon on the mount from chapter 5 to chapter 7 attacks the thought patterns established by that culture. Second Jesus reminds us of the kingdom principle "you reap what you sow." (see Luke 6:37) If we make judgements out of pride, pain, anger, or some other high emotion, it is likely we may be judging unrighteously, and that will come back around in a bad way. If we judge like this, we should repent or it and renounce our judgment and ask the Lord's forgiveness. The Holy Spirit may remind us of unrighteous judgements we have made.

Jesus goes on to say in verse 5 to first judge ourselves and repent, then to go on and judge our brother. But let's note that Jesus changes judgment from a negative as in condemning someone to a positive as in helping someone. He does this with the words he uses; "removing the speck from your brother's eye."

Thus we find that judgment in this case should be used to promote the spiritual health of our brother.

Who are You to Judge, When are You to Judge

After our discussion above, is there a place where the Christian may have to pass judgment? 1 Corinthians 5 and 6 indicate there is. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 6 verse 2 that we (the saints) will ultimately be involved in the judgment of the world and of the Angels. Also, in chapter five he admonishes the believers not to associate with one who calls himself a "Brother" yet is guilty of greed, is a reviler, a swindler, a drunkard, an idolator, or is guilty of continuing in sexual immorality. And we see in 2 Corinthians, when a person repents of that behavior to accept them back into fellowship.

Judging ourselves

Luke 12:58

This is an important part of the believers life. That of looking at your own actions, determining if they are sinful, and repenting of them, or judging ourselves

Judgments about God

How do we see or judge God. When I was young I judged God to be cruel and mean based on a kid's Gospel song and not finding how people were saved in the old testament. As I grew and read the Bible, the Holy Spirit revealed the lies I had believed about God and brought peace to me and an expanded idea of God's care and love for us.

Here is an example of a right belief about God in Jonah 4:2 " 2 And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; **for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.**" Contrast this understanding of God with the servant who was given one talent in the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:24 "**I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.**"

Judging the World

Jesus said "If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not **judge** him; for I did not come to **judge** the world but to save the world." John 12:47

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 5:13 that "God judges those outside" the family of believers. Are we appalled at what is happening in the world outside the family of believers? Should we be surprised when non-believers act like non-believers? We are admonished not to avenge ourselves because the wrath of God is coming and God says "Vengeance is mine, I will repay!"

[Final Judgment](#)

There will be a judgment in the end: John 5:29 "Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."

The saints will be judged for reward: 1 Cor 3:12-15 " Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire."

[Romans 8:1](#)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

But those outside the family of believers in Jesus stands condemned: Matthew 25:31 ³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

[John 3:36](#)

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the **wrath** of God remains on him.

Revelation 20:11-13 (see also Daniel 7:10)

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Scripture Addendum

John 5:21-23

²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. ²² The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

[John 12:47](#)

If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not **judge** him; for I did not come to **judge** the world but to save the world.

[John 12:48](#)

The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a **judge**; the word that I have spoken will **judge** him on the last day.

[Matthew 5:25](#)

Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the **judge**, and the **judge** to the guard, and you be put in prison.

Acts 10:41-43

41 not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. 43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

[Acts 17:31](#)

because he has fixed a day on which he will **judge** the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

[1 Corinthians 6:2-3](#)

Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!

[1 Corinthians 5:11-13](#)

¹¹ But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church^[b] whom you are to judge? ¹³ God judges^[c] those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

[John 3:36](#)

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the **wrath** of God remains on him.

[Romans 2:5](#)

But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up **wrath** for yourself on the day of **wrath** when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

[James 3:1](#)

[*Taming the Tongue*] Not many of you should become **teachers**, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.