

# JUDGE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

(Scripture: **Matt. 7:1-6**)

## Intro.

1. When the Bible is used to expose sin & error, it is not uncommon to hear the guilty reply that it is wrong to judge them: *Judge not, that you be not judged!*
2. Misunderstand the nature of judging:
  - a. *-krino*: "To separate, select, choose"; hence, "to determine," and so "to judge, pronounce judgment." (Vine, 336). To decide, give a verdict, declare an opinion" (ISBE, III:1777).
3. **Matthew 7:1** does not forbid all types of judgments. If it does, then Jesus contradicts Himself in **John 7:24!**

John 7:24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

4. There are some judgments condemned by God, & there are some judgments God Himself calls on us to make. We have to be able to discern the difference so we will *judge righteous judgment!*

## I. JUDGMENTS WE MUST CEASE (Because God condemns them).

### A. **Hypocritical** Judging of Others – **Matt. 7:1-5.**

1. This is the Lord's point here!
2. Harsh, bitter, faultfinding spirit, which points out others' sins while committing the same sins!

#### **Romans 2:1-2**

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

[2] We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things.

#### **Romans 2:21-22**

you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? [22] You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

3. Self-exalting & self-condemning! – **7:2** (Measured back to you, cf. **Lk. 6:38**). Example: **Lk. 18:9-12, 14**

**Luke 6:38**

give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

**Luke 18:9-12**

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.'

- B. Judging by **Appearance** – **Jno. 7:24**.

Surface judgments; Subjective, not based on objective facts.

- a. Context: **Jno. 7:19-24** – When the day of circumcision (8<sup>th</sup> day of life, **Lev. 12:3**) fell on the Sabbath it appeared to break it, but in fact, it did not!

**John 7:19-24**

Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?" [20] The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?" [21] Jesus answered them, "I did one deed, and you all marvel at it. [22] Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. [23] If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? [24] Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

Same true of Jesus when He healed on Sabbath (**Matt. 12:7**).

2. Judging on the basis of the flesh (worldly standards) – **Jno. 8:15**.

**John 8:15** You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.

3. **1 Sam. 16:6-7** – Since God looks at the heart, *we must be careful*:

**1 Samuel 16:6-7**

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." [7] But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

- a. What appears to be one thing may *in fact* be something else!

4. Lk. **7:43 (36-50)** – Simon judged appearances rather than fact!

Luke 7:43

Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly."

C. **Rash** Judgments – **Prov. 18:13 (15:28)**

1. Paul was a victim of rash rush to judgment – **Acts 21:27-29**.

**Acts 21:27-29**

When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, [28] crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place. Moreover, he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place." [29] For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

2. **1 Cor. 4:5** – Premature judgments forbidden: "...secret things, of which it is impossible that those who do not know the hearts of men should make up a judgment, do not judge of them before the time, when God will certainly come to judge all men." (Poole, [Online Bible](#))

D. **Critical** Condemnation of Others' **Liberties** - **Rom. 14:3-4, 10, 13**.

1. We must be able to allow others to exercise their conscience in areas of authorized liberties without condemning them!
2. This is not saying, "do not judge what is sinful," it is saying do not criticize each other when *liberties* are used *differently*!
3. A matter of not meddling in the matters of others – **1 Pet. 4:16**.

**1 Peter 4:16** Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

## II. JUDGE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT (**Jno. 7:24**).

### A. How? – **Jno. 5:30**

**John 5:30** "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

1. Right standard: Truth, the word of God (What we hear from God, **Heb. 1:1-2; Rom. 10:17**).
2. Right motive: Seek the will of God (**Jno. 6:38**).

### B. There are Judgments We Must Make:

#### 1. Judge what is right –.

**Luke 12:57** "And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?"

#### 2. Judge what is holy (pearls) & what is defiled (swine)

- ii. **Matthew 7:6** "Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

#### 3. Judge the evidence that Jesus is the Son of GOD.

**Matthew 16:4** An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah." So he left them and departed.

#### 4. Judge false teachers – **Matt. 7:15-20** – By their fruit (**1 Jno. 4:1, 6**).

**Matthew 7:15-20**

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup>You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup>So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

**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.

**5. Judge truth from error –**

**1 Cor. 2:14-15**

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. [15] The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.

**6. Judge what sin is and stop sinning – Jno. 8:10-11; Heb. 5:14.**

**John 8:10-11**

Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" [11] She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."]]

**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.

**7. Judge what is sin among saints, & discipline it – 1 Cor. 5:3-5.**

**1 Cor. 5:3-5**

For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing.

<sup>4</sup>When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, <sup>5</sup>you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

**1 Cor. 6:1-2**

When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? <sup>2</sup>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?

## 8. Judge disputes among brethren – 1 Cor. 6:1-2, 5.

1 Cor. 6:1-2

When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? [2] 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?

1 Cor. 6:5

I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers,

## 9. Judge what is proper – 1 Cor. 11:13.

1 Cor. 11:13

Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered?

### C. When We Use the **Right Standard** & the **Right Motive** to Judge, We Are **Not Setting Ourselves Up As Judges** – **Jas. 4:11-12.**

- a. -**1 Ths. 5:21-22** – We are *applying God's judgments* so that we may hold fast to what is good & abstain from every form of sin – And to *teach others God's will* on things that "*pertain to life & godliness*" (**2 Pet. 1:3**).

## III. Conclusion

1. We shall all stand before Christ & be judged by Him - **Acts 17:31.**
2. We must yield to the judgments of God in our own lives.
3. We must judge righteous judgments to expose sin & uphold righteousness.

Original source is Joe Price.