

“Don’t Judge Me!”

There are many opinions on “judging.” We see things like: Jesus never judged, Jesus only judged the religious folks, don’t judge me with junk in your own life, the church just needs to love and not judge, and stop judging me. We as Christians use these phrases so much we begin to lose the real meaning of them. The church has lost its way on the subject of judging. Many talk about Jesus not judging, but scripture is rarely given. So, did Jesus believe in judging? Let’s read Matt. 7:1-5.

1. Jesus says do _____ . (vss. 1-2)

We could stop there, but Jesus clarifies his statement. In other words He is saying do not judge unless you have a reason to judge. He begins to explain to the church the importance of judging. He says we are measured by the way we judge. If you unfairly judge someone, watch out; it will come back around to you, maybe (“what goes around comes around”).

2. Jesus addresses the great _____ of judging within the church. (vss. 3-5)

First, as Christians allow the Lord to remove the plank or log out of our own eye which gives us holy clarity in our own lives. The reason, so we can clearly see how to remove the speck out of our fellow Christian’s eye. Question: Should a Christian ever say, “Stop judging me?” The answer is a resounding “No!” Judging is a means of grace to help each one of us to live a life of holiness. When I judge you, I am loving you! I’m being redemptive. I must see something in your life that could lead to misfortunes and ultimately sin. We must stop this nonsense of shouting, “Stop judging me!” because we are basically saying, “Stop loving me!” Judging must derive from our love of the Lord and our love for our fellow Christian. Instead of telling people to “shut up” or I’m going to “un-friend you on social media,” be redemptive. I can judge someone’s theology or someone’s opinion without being unkind. I’m a pastor, so it is my job to warn my congregation of dangerous theologies. I will comment or post a story on ministers that I disagree with to warn my congregation. The prosperity gospel is one that I often warn against. I’m not attacking their character, but it is dangerous theology. Yes, I’m judging!

3. Should we judge _____ ? (vss. 20-23, John 8:1-11)

Yes we should! It is how we judge that makes the difference. For instance, the woman caught in adultery. Jesus’ response to her was loving and kind, but he made a judgment call. He said, “Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more.” Jesus recognized the need for her to be rescued. The key? Jesus was able to see clearly how to love this woman while others were accusing, condemning and about to throw stones. He wasn’t condemning but he definitely held her accountable. We often think if we are judging, we are condemning; not true! Relationship building with unbelievers is the redemptive way. Get to know unbelievers and the Lord will definitely lead you on how to rescue them. “Us” and “them” arguments are not productive. But, Paul referred to unbelievers as “them that are without” in Colossians 4:4. Why? Because he saw perishing people! He desired to be redemptive! He desired to make most of his time with them.

As a Christian:

Being a husband! Judge me!

Being a father! Judge me!

Being a pastor! Judge me!

My actions! Judge me!

My reactions! Judge me!

My dress! Judge me!

My preaching! Judge me!

My discipline! Judge me!

My speech! Judge me!

If you are offended as a Christian because someone judged you, then humility needs to find its way into your soul. When a judgment call comes your way, don’t dismiss it but discern the validity of the judgment. If it was not warranted, dismiss it with love and carry on, but I have a feeling the judgment was right on time! Yes, be gentle with new Christians, but I have often seen new Christians accept judgment. Sometimes us old Christians build up prideful walls and are offended at a mention of judgment. Of course, we don’t run around judging every action of our fellow Christians, but we must keep ourselves open to help each other in our walk. Our judgment of love could save a fellow Christian from deep pain and agony. The Holy Spirit will lead! Please keep judging me because when you are judging me, you are loving me. Be redemptive!

