

JUDGING PRINCIPLES

WHAT WE SHOULD NOT DO

1

Do Not Apply a Double-Standard (Mt.7:1,5)

- ♥ ¹Judge not, that you be not judged. ... ⁵Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye" (Mt.7:1,5)

2

Do Not Judge Motives (1Co.4:5; Jn.7:24)

- ♥ "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God." (1Co.4:5)
- ♥ "then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men)" (1Ki.8:39)
- ♥ "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment." (Jn.7:24)

3

Do Not Judge Matters That Are Unclear (Rm.14; 1Co.8)

- ♥ ⁵One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.... ¹⁰But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.... ¹³Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.... ¹⁶Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil... (Rm.14, selective)
- ♥ ⁹But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak....
¹¹And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? (1Co.8, selective)

4

Do Not Gossip (Ja.4:11-12)

- ♥ ¹¹Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.
¹²There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another? (Ja.4:11-12)

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WHAT WE SHOULD DO

1 We Should Have Discernment (1Co.2:15; Cl.2:8; 1Jn.4:1)

- ♥ “But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.” (1Co.2:15)
- ♥ “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.” (Cl.2:8)
- ♥ “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1Jn.4:1)

2 We Should Call Sin, Sin (1Jn.2:10—2:2; Ex.15:11)

- ♥ ^{1:10} “If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.” ^{2:1} “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” ^{2:2} “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” (1Jn.1:10-2:2)

3 We Should Take Action When Needed (Mt.18:15-20; 1Co.5:12-13)

- ♥ ¹² “For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?” ¹³ “But those who are outside God judges. Therefore “PUT AWAY FROM YOURSELVES THE EVIL PERSON.” (1Co.5:12-13)

4 We Should Judge Ourselves (Mt.7:5; 1Co.11:31-32)

- ♥ “Hypocrite, first take the beam out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the chip out of the eye of your brother.” (Mt.7:5)
- ♥ ³¹ “For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.” ³² “But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.” (1Co.11:31-32)

5 We Should Seek to Restore (Ga.6:1)

- ♥ “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.” (Ga.6:1)