

# JUDGING PRINCIPLES

## WHAT WE SHOULD NOT DO

**1**

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

- ♥ <sup>1</sup>Judge not, that you be not judged. ... <sup>5</sup>Hypocrite! 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)
  - One of the most misused verse in the Bible
  - Do not judge someone for a sin you are equally, or more guilty of.
  - First take the plank out of your own eye, then help remove the speck in your brother's eye.
  - Fix yourself so you can help fix others.

**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)
  - We should judge outward actions, but do not presume to know someone's motives.
  - God alone knows people's motives (1Ki.8:39)
  - Christians get themselves in a heap of trouble when they try to judge other peoples' motives

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

♥ <sup>5</sup>One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.... <sup>10</sup>But 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.... <sup>13</sup>Therefore 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.... <sup>16</sup>Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil... **(Rm.14, selective)**

♥ <sup>9</sup>But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak....  
<sup>11</sup>And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? **(1Co.8, selective)**

- (Romans 14, Special days, what we eat, not offending each other; 1Co.8, offered to idols)
- We should not judge others in areas where the Bible has given us freedom or discretion.
- Though God has given us clear moral boundaries, He also has given us freedom within those boundaries.
- Extending grace in these circumstances is necessary to honor God and our brethren.

**4**

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

♥ <sup>11</sup>Do 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.

<sup>12</sup>There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another? **(Ja.4:11-12)**

- We should not speak evil of one another because we are then making ourselves a judge
- James is saying judging others is God's business **(Ja.4:12)**
- This one is so hard to live out! Not talking about others' faults?
- To obey this command we need to change our hearts.
- We need to remember that we are sinners ourselves. We have done wrong.
- We need to have compassion on others who have done wrong.
- If we do not have compassion there is only one word for us – hypocrites **(Mt.7:5)**.

# JUDGING PRINCIPLES

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### **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)
  - Jesus expects us to judge, but to judge correctly, using Biblical standards (Jn.7:24).
  - Christians must exercise discernment; for not everyone is a sheep (Warren Wiersbe).
  - Only a fool would give pearls to a pig (Mt.7:6). Do not appreciate, nor value.
  - The Bible is clear that we need to discern between right and wrong (1Co.2:15)
    - A. We are to reject the world's deceitful philosophies (Cl.2:8)
    - B. We are to watch out for false prophets (1Jn.4:1)

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

- ♥ <sup>1:10</sup> “If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.” <sup>2:1</sup> “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.” <sup>2:2</sup> “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)
  - This is the man who rationalizes sin (1Jn.1:10-2:2)
  - We do not brush sin under the rug.
  - Principle is how do we handle truth in the face of those who do not want truth.
  - How can we proclaim the good news that Christ came to save us from sin if we do not mention sin?
  - If we say, “I know the Bible says homosexuality is wrong, but we are not supposed to judge”
  - This is a snare and a compromise. In our culture, it has become a sin to call sin, “sin.”
  - In our culture, the only real sin is the “barbaric” concept of sin itself.

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

- ♥ <sup>12</sup>For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?  
<sup>13</sup>But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "PUT AWAY FROM YOURSELVES THE EVIL PERSON." (1Co.5:12-13)
- ♥ “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? ” (1Pe.4:17)
  - Paul is clear that those in authority are expected to exercise church discipline (Mt.18:15-20; 1Co.5:12-13; 1Pe.4:17).
  - Judgment does not equal condemnation (1Pe.4:17)
  - Remember Paul's example when he confronted Peter's hypocrisy (Ga.2:11-14)

**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)
- ♥ <sup>31</sup>For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. <sup>32</sup>But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. (1Co.11:31-32)
  - We should be constantly examining our own hearts and actions, asking God to reveal sin.
  - When we focus on what others are doing, we begin to think better of ourselves than we ought.
  - When we focus on correcting our own wrongs it will humble & deepen our relationship with God.
  - Doing this properly will teach us how to Biblically judge others.

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**5**

### We Should Seek to Restore (Ga.6:1; Ja.5:19-20; Mt.18:15-20)

- ♥ “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)
- ♥ <sup>19</sup>Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, <sup>20</sup>let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins. (Ja.5:19-20)
- ♥ “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? ” (1Pe.4:17)
- ♥ “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother” (Mt.18:15)
  - We should care enough about others to tell them the truth.
  - When we see someone traveling down a dangerous path, we do them no service to ignore the problem in the name of “not judging.”
  - Paul warns against pride or comparison.
  - In everything, we must be motivated by love, not to elevate ourselves.
  - Repentance is the goal, and should end the matter (Mt.18:15-20).
  - When seeking to help someone we must exercise care to do what would be appreciated and beneficial (Mt.7:1-6)
  - The reason for judgment is not to condemn others, but to minister to them (Ja.5:19-20)