

JUDGING OTHERS

The Greek word for “judge” is “krinó”. It is defined as “to properly separate or distinguish; to make a determination of right or wrong.”

1. The Greek meaning of the word judge doesn’t sound like anything Jesus would disagree with to me. If you agree, then what type of “judging” is He teaching against in Mt. 7?
 - a. Does it make a difference whether or not these feelings are verbalized?
 - b. Where should we draw the line between being biblically discerning versus being overly critical?
2. How should our understanding of God’s love and grace for us shape our idea of judging others?
3. How does a judgmental attitude affect our lives in each of these areas?
 - a. Our ability to show love?
 - b. Our ability to build each other up? (1Thess. 5:11)
 - c. Our ability to listen to others?
 - d. Our ability to remain humble?
 - e. Our prayer life?
4. How does the instruction “not to judge” relate to the instruction to “love our enemies”?
5. If you confront someone in sin or error and he says, “You’re being judgmental,” how would you respond?
6. How can you know when God wants you to talk to someone about sin or error, or when you should wait, listen, and pray?
7. Many say that Christians are judgmental and intolerant. They give Jesus’ dealing with the adulteress woman as an example that we should always be tolerant. Do they have a point?

Cambridge Dictionary definition of “judge” (as a transitive verb): “to express a bad opinion of someone’s behavior, often because you think you are better than them”

Mt. 7:1-6: 7 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 3 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. 6 “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces. 6 “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

James 4:11-12: 11 Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister[a] or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

Mt. 18:15-17: 15 “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

1 Cor. 5:9-12: 9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister[c] but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. 12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 13 God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.”

1 Cor. 4:3-4: 3 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. 4 My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.

John 8:2-11: 2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” 11 “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

1Thess. 5-11: Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing