

Judge Righteous Judgment

I. Introduction

A. Consider some things Scripture teaches in connection with Jesus' command to judge righteous judgment. **John 7:24**

II. Judging is Necessary

- A. Perhaps one of the most well-known Bible verses is Christ's command "judge not, that ye be not judged." Like all of Scripture, this verse must be studied in *context*. **Matthew 7:1**
- B. The same sermon that contains this verse shows that judging others is at times necessary. **Matthew 7:15-16**

III. (Righteous) Judging is Good

- A. Though judging is often viewed in a negative light, it is a *positive* thing when done rightly. For instance, complimenting others for doing things that please God involves a *judgment* call being made, and is a source of encouragement. **Revelation 3:8**
- B. Likewise, when sin is pointed out in a righteous manner, such is a good thing rather than a bad thing. **Revelation 3:19**

IV. Judge Fairly

- A. For judging to be a good thing, though, it must be done *rightly*.
- B. Part of judging rightly is judging *fairly*. Jesus' forbidding of judging according to the appearance emphasizes the need to avoid careless judgments against others without thoughtful consideration of the facts. **John 7:1, 23-24**
- C. Jesus was often judged *unrighteously* by people who falsely accused Him and misrepresented the facts. **Mark 14:56-59**

V. Judge with the Right Motive

- A. Judging fairly is aided by having the right *motive*. The goal of judging should not be to attack someone, "win" an argument, or prove pre-conceived notions right, but simply to do what's right and help others make it to heaven. **Mark 14:55; Galatians 6:1**

VI. Judge What We Can Know

- A. Judging others fairly also involves judging only that which we have the *ability* to know. For instance, we must not assume we can read others' hearts and motives like God can. **1 Corinthians 4:5**

VII. Judge According to Truth

- A. Furthermore, we must not judge others as guilty of sin based upon our *opinions* and *preferences*, or the assumptions of the majority. The only standard by which anyone can be proven guilty of sin is the perfect Law of Christ. **James 4:12; Romans 14:3**

VIII. Judge Self First

- A. The key point of Jesus' "judge not" command is the need to judge oneself *first*. It can be much easier to see faults in others than to see faults in one's own life, but we ought to look for sin in self foremost. **Matthew 7:1-5; 2 Samuel 12:5-7**

IX. Judge Humbly

- A. Moreover, when we judge others, we should not do so condescendingly, but with an understanding that we, like any in error, are undeserving of God's grace, and are merely trying to share the cure God offers with others. **Galatians 6:1**

X. Conclusion

- A. On the Day of Judgment, Christ will judge each of us according to our works. Part of what He will judge each of *us* by is how we have done judging *others*. May we heed His commands on this subject and judge righteous judgment. **2 Corinthians 5:10**