



The Way of Discernment

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

“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? 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? 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.

“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.”

Matthew 7:1-6 (NIV)

Big Idea: The Bible doesn’t tell us _____ to judge. The Bible tells us _____ to judge and _____ to judge.

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them.”

Matthew 7:15-16 (NIV)

- Jesus is teaching we must make _____; we need to have _____.

Do not allow this world to mold you in its own image. Instead, be transformed from the inside out by renewing your mind. As a result, you will be able to discern what God wills and whatever God finds good, pleasing, and complete.

Romans 12:2 (VOICE)

- Jesus is teaching we must not be _____.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Luke 6:37-38 (NIV)

- Jesus is teaching we need to be careful about whom we are offering _____ to.

What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside.

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 (NIV)

“If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.”

Matthew 18:15-17 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:1-2 (NLT)

Discussion Questions

1. How have you heard the “Judge not” verse of Matthew 7:1 used in the past?
2. What is the difference between judging and being judgmental?
3. How can you begin this week the habit of examining your own life for the "plank in your eye"?

Recommended Resources

- *Uncommon Ground: Living Faithfully in a World of Difference*, by Timothy Keller
- *The Deeply Formed Life*, by Rich Villodas
- *The Good and Beautiful Life*, by James Bryan Smith

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