

## ***Lies We Believe: Christians shouldn't judge?***

*Matt. 7:1-6; Various Texts*

### ***The Claim: "Christians shouldn't judge"***

- The underlying premise: We are not supposed call the behavior of others sinful
- Based off Jesus' words in Matt. 7:1a, "Do not judge."
  - Used often by non-Christians towards Christians

### ***Scripture's Truth***

- This is an example of the importance of context
  - We must read the whole statement of what Jesus is saying to understand what He means
  - And then we must apply that meaning correctly

### ***Judging the Context (Matt. 7:1-6)***

- Part of the Sermon on the Mount
  - Teaching the crowds of people
- What does 'judge' mean here?
  - To pass judgment or condemn someone's behavior as wrong/sinful
- Jesus tells us not to judge others, unless we are ready for that judgment to be turned back on us
- He is pointing out the intent of judgment by the individual
  - If the intent is condemnation, then we are out of line (Luke 6:37; Rom. 2:1)
  - However, if the intent is correction
    - Then we better be sure that we are not suffering the same sin as the one who are seeking to correct
      - "Plank/speck" image
- He does NOT say don't help your brother correct their sin

### ***Pearls & Swine***

- We must also assess the ability of the 'be-speckled' brother to receive our words of correction (Pro 26:4-5)
- It is the wisdom of godly correction Jesus calls scared & a pearl (Matt. 7:6)

### ***The Error of Misapplication***

- We often take a morsel of a truth and misapply it
- "Don't pass judgement for the purpose of condemnation" becomes
  - "Don't have any level of discernment between what is right and wrong."
  - "Don't lovingly correct someone caught in sin."

### ***The Full Counsel of Scripture***

- The solution to this error is to look at the full counsel of Scripture
- We are never called to pass judgment or condemn someone else, because that is God's job (Rom 14:10)
- But rather, to have discernment between good and evil (Heb 5:14)
  - The Church is to have such discernment that we will judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3)
- God tells us to judge using His standards, not human ones (John 7:24)
- And to apply these standards to those within the Church, not those outside (1 Cor. 5:12)
- Which is for the purpose of correction and restoration (Gal. 6:1)

### ***So What?***

- We are not called to pass judgment on others
  - But rather to lovingly correct and restore them
- This is limited to those who call Christ Lord
  - We cannot expect the world to live like they know Jesus
- Are we practicing discernment or passing judgment?

**Meditation Verse:** *Romans 12:2*