

Extreme MAKEOVER

Matthew 7:1-5: Blueberry Stains & Judging Others

Introduction: The most popular verse is no longer John 3:16; it is Matthew 7:1, which states, “You shall not judge.” Both the Christian and non-Christian carry this verse in their back pocket like a pocketknife, waiting to whip it out when they sense some pious religious person is about to judge them. So, does the Bible really teach Christians are not supposed to judge, or does it allow judging with some parameters? That is what we are going to talk about today. When it comes to pronouncing judgment, the New Testament teaches five things that are important for our discussion. Here is the first.

1. The Bible Teaches we are not to judge unbelievers (1 Corinthians 5:12-13)

- a. Explain the context:
- b. God cares about how we live and we can only be a light in a dark world through association.
- c. When we do not befriend the unchurched, we have already judged them by default

2. The Bible teaches we must not be hypocrites (Matthew 7:1-4)

- a. Read and explain the context: Remove the log
- b. Matthew 23:2-5 addresses the influence of religious leaders: Do what they say, not what they do
- c. What we hate in others often reflects areas we struggle with most. **The luster vs. the adulterer**
- d. Confrontation of sin requires self-examination. Be a logger

3. The Bible Teaches we must judge believers with reconciliation in mind (Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5:5, 2 Corinthians 2:5-10; Galatians 6:1)

- a. Read Matthew 7:5: Once our sin is logged; we can remove the other’s speck
- b. The goal is always restoration, not condemnation (Galatians 6:1)
- c. God, Jesus, the Gospel, and the blueberry
- d. The ministry of Jesus is one of reconciliation and restoration

4. The Bible teaches we must judge sin as it effects corporate matters (Matthew 15:18; 1 Corinthians 5:1-8)

- a. Paul removes the immoral man because of the effect it may have on the body (5:6-8).
- b. Lack of judgment leads to lack of love: God, guilty party, and the church body.
- c. New Christian moves in with guy
 - a. The basis for judgment: Is he was a Christian?
 - b. The appeal: As a brother and from God's Word
 - c. The Justification: Financial Duress
 - d. The Affect: Caused gossip and frustration in the church body
 - e. The Request: Find another solution or leave: He left
 - f. The reality: As a pastor, I must protect the flock like a shepherd
 - g. The Hope: Is that reconciliation will one day take place

5. The Bible teaches Jesus did not initially come to judge, but eventually will (John 3:17; 12:47; Revelation 20-21)

- a. Read John 3:17
- b. The unchurched must know Christ as a Savior; not a condemner
- c. The Truth: Ultimately, people who reject Jesus, condemn themselves
- d. Jesus will return as a righteous judge
- e. God's judgment reveals love

Our focus should never be on God's judgment in the sense of condemnation. Our focus should always be on reconciliation with each other and God.

One marriage counselor in seminary put it this way: The goal of counseling couples is to help them to love each other and God more.

We of all people should never come across as self-righteous. The Bible teaches we were spiritually dead and then Christ rescued us and gave us something we could never earn. We became righteous by God. May we always live in that state of humility as we engage each other and our culture for Christ. May our culture see Jesus in us.