

Judge Not?

Matt 7:1-5

Q: What do these verses mean to you?

Q: Why do they mean that? Did someone tell you that? Did you read the verses for yourself and come to that conclusion?

Q: Does scripture support your conclusion?

Let's look at a few verses: Leviticus 19:15, Deuteronomy 1:16-17, 16:18, John 7:24.

Q: What about Matthew 7:16-20? What is Jesus saying to us?

Let's ask some practical questions

Q: Have you ever judged a person on their merits regarding becoming a significant other? A friend?

Q: Have you ever judged a person's behavior to administrate corrective instruction or a just penalty?

Q: Have you ever judged a stranger? A coworker? evaluating their motives, their trustworthiness?

Q: Have you ever judged someone you hired to perform as service for you, your home, the church? (doctor, mechanic, roofer) for their trustworthiness and to speculate about the quality of their work?

Q: So if we are called to judge others, what is Jesus saying?

Let's read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Jesus is saying, judge but with the thought, you don't know everything. God is at last the final judge. We should test ourselves and our own motivations as we make judgments and humble ourselves beforehand and not being excited to judge but rather being compelled in seeking the person's good.

(Jonathan Edwards: Never to speak evil of anyone, so that it shall tend to his dishonor, more or less, upon no account except for some real good.)

Never to say anything at all against anybody, but when it is perfectly agreeable to the highest degree of Christian honor and of love to mankind, agreeable to the lowest humility, and sense of my own faults and failings and agreeable to the golden rule; often when I have said anything against anyone, to bring it to, and to try it by the test of this resolution)

Bonus Questions: :)

Q: Now how do we see it? What is Jesus talking about? If He is saying we can and should judge others, what is He getting at?

Let's read a few more: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, James 4:11-12

Q: Do these help or hurt our understanding? What is common to both?

1) 1 Cor 4:1-5 about judging the validity of Paul as a minister of Christ. Paul says God is true judge when it comes to final judgment on that. He says even he doesn't judge that in terms of himself but God will truly, finally reveal that.

2) James 4:11-12, says we only judge by God's standard. We don't put God in trial as being more wise than He (judging the Law) and the we don't judge then by our own standards.

These two passages refer to different types of judgment and don't apply as direct corollaries to the initial passages.