

## Judge Not?

### “Don’t Judge Me, Bro”

**Genesis 49:16** Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel.

**Exodus 18:13b** ...Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening.

**Leviticus 19:15b** ...in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.

**Judges 2:18** Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them.

**1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 7:15** Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

**Psalms 82:2 - 3** (quoted by Jesus in **John 10:35** to the unjust Jews who wanted to stone him)

**2** “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah

**3** Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.

**4** Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

**Proverbs 31:8 - 9**

**8** Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.

**9** Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

**Isaiah 16:5** then a throne will be established in steadfast love, and on it will sit in faithfulness in the tent of David one who judges and seeks justice and is swift to do righteousness.

**John 7:24** Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:12b** (rebuking them for not handling internal matters of sexual immorality)  
Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:3** Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!

**James 2:12 – 13a**

**12** So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.

**13a** For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy.

*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

**Micah 6:8**



## Judge Not?

### Appreciating the Difference Between:

**Condemnatory Judgment** – Harsh, prideful, and hypocritical criticism of others, often presumptuous and without self-examining humility. Intends to destroy others and exalt self.

Example: The tax collector and Pharisee who went up to pray (**Luke 18:9 – 14**),  
“God, I thank you that I am not like other men...”

**Discerning Judgment** – Careful, fair evaluation of habits or behaviors in light of God’s Word. Practiced with humility, courage, and love for the Lord and his people. Intends to come alongside others to restore sinners and protect the oppressed.

Example: Paul’s rebuke of Peter and the other Jewish Christians who acted hypocritically in Antioch against the Gentile Christians. (**Galatians 2:11 -14**)  
“If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

### Criticism Often Comes to Us More Quickly Than Compassion

- Uprighteous judgment may feign itself as compassion,
  - But it excuses greater evils and oppresses the weak.
- Righteous judgment is an expression of compassion
  - because it seeks God’s good and justice for all in accordance with God’s Word.
- Misusing “judge not” to avoid confronting sin or falsehood is not compassion
  - It contradicts other biblical commands to discern, correct, and protect.

### Practical Principles

- **#1 - Don’t Waste Holy Food on Dogs. Don’t Cast Pearls Before Pigs.**
  - **Proverbs 9:7 – 8a** Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you...
- **#2 - Don’t Judge Self-Righteously**
  - **Romans 14:10** Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God
- **#3 - Don’t Judge with Only Partial Information**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:19** Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.
  - **Proverbs 18:13** If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.
- **#4 - Don’t Judge Based on Outward Appearances**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:7** But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”
- **#5 - Don’t Judge Others According to the Standards of Your Own Conscience**
  - **Romans 14:5** One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 8:12** Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

