

“Giving Grace While Judging”
Matthew 7:1-6; 13-20 * August 26, 2009

I. When Jesus told us “Don’t judge” did he mean that we should never say if something is right or wrong? Does being a ‘grace-giver’ mean we have to let everything go?

A. What was the first word out of Jesus’ mouth when he began his public ministry?

B. Which means what?

II. Six Instances When Christians Are To Exercise Moral Judgment

A. When we share our _____ with others.

B. To distinguish ways of living that bring us _____ to God from those that drive us _____ from Him.

C. To sort out good and godly _____ from false and devilish _____.

1. How are Christians to regard their leaders?

D. When someone _____ against you. (Matt.18:15)

1. What’s shouldn’t be done when another Christian sins against you?

2. What’s the proper protocol?

E. When you see a fellow Christian _____ in _____.
(Galatians 6:1ff)

F. To speak out against _____. (Prov.24:11-12)

III. Five Ways Our Judging Can Become Judgmentalism (Luke 7:36-50)

A. When we look only on the _____ and fail to consider what’s in the _____.

B. When we look only at what a person _____ and fail to see what a person _____.

C. When we prefer _____ over _____.

D. When we use _____ standards to judge by.

E. When we are _____ to our own sin.

IV. What Can We Do To Keep From Becoming Judgmental?

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I. When Jesus told us “Don’t judge” did he mean that we should never say if something is right or wrong? Does being a ‘grace-giver’ mean we have to let everything go?

A. What was the first word out of Jesus’ mouth when he began his public ministry?

“Repent...”

B. Which means what?

To repent is to turn away from sin, from wrongdoing. Obviously, if you’re going to call people to repent, you have to let them know what it is that they’re doing wrong.

II. Six Instances When Christians Are To Exercise Moral Judgment

A. When we share our **faith** with others.

We can’t just go around giving canned gospel presentations to everyone, because not everyone is at the same place spiritually speaking. Some are as resistant as could be, some are receptive and open to talk, some are ripe and ready to be brought across the line of faith. Jesus always varied the spiritual conversations he had with people, and we need to exercise similar judgment.

B. To distinguish ways of living that bring us **closer** to God from those that drive us **further** from Him.

This is a type of judging we should engage in all day long as we come to various moral crossroads in our lives. Is this behavior I’m thinking about, is this choice I’ve considering gonna keep me on God’s narrow path, or is it gonna put me on that broad road?

C. To sort out good and godly **teaching** from false and devilish **teaching**.

1. How are Christians to regard their leaders?

Hebrews 13:7 says “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” “Consider the outcome of their way of life”. Check out their fruit, the author says. Having considered their way of life,

then, and only then imitate them. Don’t stop weighing the teaching you hear, holding it up to the Word of God.

D. When someone **sins** against you. (Matt.18:15)

1. What’s shouldn’t be done when another Christian sins against you?

Get all angry at “the church”, and pull back from fellowship. Cop an attitude with Christianity! Before you ever start talking about “the church” - “the church is this” or “the church is that” make sure you know who you’re talking about. Look around the room right now. That’s who you’re talking about. You’re not talking about a faceless blob, you’re talking about the individuals and families that are right here now. People who are flesh and blood just like you. Who struggle with sin just like you.

2. What’s the proper protocol?

You’re to exercise moral judgement. You’re to go to him or her, one on one, and “show him his fault”. That means you’ll have to judge their behavior and explain how it affected you. Go to them and say, “Hey, maybe you’re not even aware of it, but you really hurt me by what you said, by what you did the other day. I was wondering if we could talk about it.”

E. When you see a fellow Christian **caught** in **sin**. (Galatians 6:1ff)

This is not an individual competition. It’s a team sport. The best thing I can compare Christianity to is mountain-climbing. I’ve never climbed a mountain, but I’ve seen enough movies. If someone on the team loses his grip and he’s dangling off the mountainside, hanging only by the rope that’s attached to the rest of the team, they don’t cut the rope on him. “See you at the bottom!”

F. To speak out against **injustice**. (Prov.24:11-12)

We have an obligation as God’s children to let our voices be heard when the evil and powerful try to enforce their will on the weak and innocent. Being a Christian is not just about personal morality. There is a strong social component to following Jesus.

III. Five Ways Our Judging Can Become Judgmentalism (Luke 7:36-50)

- A. When we look only on the **outside** and fail to consider what's in the **heart**.*
- B. When we look only at what a person **has been** and fail to see what a person **can be**.*
- C. When we prefer **judgment** over **mercy**.*
- D. When we use **arbitrary** standards to judge by.*
- E. When we are **blind** to our own sin.*

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