

Planks and Knocking

What does it mean to judge someone else?

What are different ways of judging people?

Matthew 7:1-5 (p. 1505)

Did Jesus intend for us to never judge at all? 100 percent prohibition?
What would that look like? What about crime?

A whole book of the Old Testament is named “Judges.” Who were these “judges”?

Romans 2:1-3 (p. 1748) Does Paul provide us with any nuance?

Aren't there times we need to judge? 1 John 4:1-3 (p. 1902)
Matthew 7:15-16 (p. 1506)

So how do we judge? What are Christ's instructions?

Normally a person judging comes from a place of superiority.

- As Christians, are we superior to non-Christians?
- If we attend church more than other Christians, are we superior to them?

“Do Christians enjoy power, gifts and standards of judgment which qualify them to exert a peculiar authority over others? How easy it would have been for the disciples to adopt a superior attitude, to pass unqualified condemnation on the rest of the world, and to persuade themselves that this was the will of God! That is why Jesus has to make it clear beyond all doubt that such misunderstandings would seriously imperil their discipleship.” – *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

So who is qualified to judge?

With that in mind, what is the lesson of 7:1-2? Is this the Golden Rule or something else?

“Judgment is the forbidden objectification of the other person which destroys single-minded love. I am not forbidden to have my own thoughts about the other person, to realize his shortcomings, but only to the extent that it offers to me an occasion for forgiveness and unconditional love, as Jesus proves to me. If I withhold my judgment I am not ... [confirming] the other person in his bad ways.” – *Bonhoeffer*

“Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. ... If when we judged others, our real motive was to destroy evil, we should look for evil where it is certain to be found, and that is in our own hearts.” – *Bonhoeffer*

What makes someone a “hypocrite?”

Planks. What are the planks in your eyes?

Matthew 7:6 (p. 1505)

No parallel found in the other Gospels

How were dogs and pigs viewed by the Jewish people?

So what does this verse mean?

Matthew 7:7-12

In Luke similar verses appear right after Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray (the Lord’s Prayer)

What is the connection between this passage and our discussion on 7:1-5 concerning judging?

How does it relate to the discussion on not worrying (6:25-34)?

Does this say God provides us with a blank check?

Is this a passage about grace?