

One Another – Do Not Judge

Text : **Rom. 14: 13, 1-4 , I Cor. 5: 1-5 , Matt. 7: 1-5**

INTRODUCTION :

- A. With this lesson we will deal with one of the more difficult “One Another” passages to apply in our lives. “Let us not judge one another.” Rom. 14: 13**
1. Our goals are :
 - a. To understand what it means to judge a brother.
 - b. To understand why it is difficult not to be judgmental of others.
 - c. To learn what God is teaching us about the relationship between brethren.
 2. Once we have achieved this understand, compliance to the command will be easier.
- B. None of us want to be judgmental of others, but at times we all are.**
1. Christians are often thought of as being judgmental when they are not.
 2. We’ll see why that’s the case.
- C. It is impossible to live on planet earth without making judgments.**
1. We make judgments about all manner of things :
 - a. How we dress. *Women in parts of Africa go topless, in other parts wear burkas.*
 - b. What we eat. *Some people eat meat, others don’t and still others eat people.*
 2. We will see how we decide when it is okay to make certain judgments.

I. By it’s very nature Christianity is in conflict with the world over this topic.

- A. One of the highest social values in this modern era is tolerance.**
1. Many would rather have their parentage questioned than their tolerance.
 2. When the world calls a person “*intolerant and judgmental*” it’s their worst insult.
 3. Oddly, those who are the loudest advocates for tolerance are the most intolerant of those who do not measure up to their standard of tolerance.
- B. Religious people are often accused of being intolerant because they advocate a clearly defined standard of morals and behavior from God.**
1. When Christians speak out against immorality, the advocates of tolerance seek to silence them as voices of intolerance.
 2. When conservative voices of any kind oppose their agenda, they are most intolerant.
 3. What they are in fact trying to force is “*acceptance*” of their godless belief system.

C. There is a very clear difference between “tolerance” and “acceptance.”

1. **Tolerance** : indulgence for beliefs or practices differing from or conflicting with one's own
2. **Acceptance**: an agreeing either expressly or by conduct to the act or offer of another ...
3. Acceptance infers approval.
 - a. Thus, the world wants for Christians to approve of their ungodly conduct.
 - b. We must accept their perverse sexual conduct because it is their alternate lifestyle.

D. Thus, the unbeliever’s favorite verse in the bible is

Matthew 7:1 – Do not judge so that you will not be judged.

1. Any disapproval of their actions invokes the response ... *You’re judging me.*
2. Though they know the words, such people obviously don’t understand the verse.
3. They have made a decision and they don’t want for anyone to question it.
 - a. They have become the sole standard by which their actions are evaluated.
 - b. Everyone else must tolerate and accept the standard that they’ve set for themselves.

II. Before one can accurately use any verse, he must understand it. (True of any info.)

A. “*Krino*”, the word translated as “judge” is translated in several different ways.

1. judge
2. determine
3. condemn
4. go to law
5. call in question
6. esteem, etc

B. It is translated differently because it has a variety of different meanings.

1. To separate, to select, to choose
2. To approve, to prefer
3. To think, to be of the opinion, to deem
4. To determine, to resolve, decree
5. To judge, to pronounce an opinion concerning right and wrong
6. To rule, govern
7. To contend together, to dispute

C. Obviously, the meaning cannot be ascertained without context.

III. A principle of interpretation :

No verse can be interpreted to contradict other verse.

A. Thus, as we seek to determine the meaning of “do not judge” we must consider it’s context and it relationship to other verses.

B. We can determine meaning by comparing it to other teachings :

1. The Christian is commanded to restore any brother who gets caught up in sin.
 - a. **Gal. 6: 1** – Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are (*not to tolerate sin*) spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.
 - b. We are commanded to take action to restore the brother to faithful living.
2. We are commanded to be direct and proactive in dealing with a brother’s sin.
 - a. **Matt. 18: 15-17** If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.’ ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
 - b. We are commanded to confront each other about our sins, not to accept it.
 - c. Note : “*Sin against you*” is an interpretation; “*against you*” is not in the text.
3. When a brother continues in sin and will not repent, we must discipline him.
 - a. **I Cor. 5: 2** – You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.
 - b. The command is to deal with, to directly confront observable sin.
 - c. This is not an option; but a direct command to be obeyed ; **Thus, NOT judging.**

C. Likewise, Christians must directly confront, i.e., must judge false teaching.

1. **ALL** Christians are commanded to make a judgment about every teaching.
 - a. **I John 4: 1** – Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
 - b. The Christian must “scrutinize” every teaching to see if it is from God.
 - c. No man today is inspired of God so we must compare all to the inspired text.

Acts 17:11 – Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

2. When Christians learn that a teachers is teaching false or erring doctrine, he is required to take specific action. (Compare ... Apollos ... Acts 18: 24-26)
 - a. He must make a negative value judgment about him, i.e., consider him accursed.
Gal. 1: 9 – As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!
 - b. Christians must avoid him those who do not teach and live according to the truth.
II Thes. 3: 6 – Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

Thus, it is abundantly clear that “*Judge not so that you will not be judged.*” does not mean that the Christian should ignore or tolerate sin in the church.

IV. In order to understand Matt. 7: 1, one must understand basic Christianity.

A. Let us consider Matthew 7.

1. **Matthew 7: 1-5** Do not judge so that you will not be judged. ² For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. ³ Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ “Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.
2. The actual issue is not the taking of the “speck” out of the brother’s eye, it is in the ignoring of the “log” in one’s own eye.
3. The attitude addresses is a feeling of superiority, an attitude of self-righteousness.

B. Nowhere in the scriptures is one Christian given the right to evaluate another.

1. We are ALL deserving of Hell, but
 - a. Christians are redeemed by Jesus.
 - b. We are saved ONLY by His grace.
 - c. Thus, no one will stand before God saved on his own merits. (*All are sinners.*)
2. That means no Christian is better than any other Christian.
 - a. The only righteousness anyone has is imputed to him by God.
 - b. Knowing the scriptures better does not make one better, just wiser.
 - c. Being more advanced in one’s sanctification does not make one better.
3. All Christians are made pure, holy, blameless, free of condemnation by Jesus.

C. ALL Christians must struggle together toward the goal of sanctification.

1. **Heb. 12: 14** – Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.
 - a. We all pursue sanctification, but without Jesus we could not make it. **I Cor. 6:11**
 - b. Even the Apostles could not achieve personal sanctification. **Gal 2 cf Rom 7**
2. **Gal. 6: 1** ... We address to brethren's sins with a view toward restoring them.
3. **Matt. 18: 15ff** ... We confront people about their sin to “win” a brother.
4. **I Cor. 5** ... When a brother is delivered to Satan, it is with a view of saving him.

D. Any time we address sin in a brother it must be with view of our own sinfulness.

1. **Gal. 6: 1** ... When we are restoring others we do it looking to ourselves.
2. **Matt. 7: 5** ... While we are helping a brother to remove a speck, they help us remove the log from our own eye.

CONCLUSION :

A. The judging to which our text refers is a viewing others as being beneath you.

1. This was the disease of the Pharisees; they wanted to be better than others.
2. Remember the teaching of Jesus :

Luke 18: 9-14 And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ “The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² ‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ “But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ ¹⁴ “I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

B. This parable is an extreme situation, but it illustrates real problem for Christians

1. We spend years working to become more sanctified in our life.
2. As we start achieving some success the difference between us and others is apparent.
3. By nature we tend feel increasingly good about our success and become prideful.

C. As we feel more righteous, we hold others to an increasingly higher standard.

1. Anyone who falls beneath us is of lesser quality.
2. Everyone is better than someone, but no one is good.

II Cor. 10: 12b – ... **but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.**

D. We must be patient with the immaturity of others, because we are still maturing.

1. Every Christian has a responsibility to every other Christian to facilitate his growth.
2. We do that when we come together so we must not forsake the assemblies.
3. We do that in our daily lives so we need to have time together outside the assembly.

E. Footnote : We've been talking about our relationship with other Christians.

1. Christians don't judge those outside of Christ. ***GOD will judge them .. by law.***

I Cor. 5: 9-10 **I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; ¹⁰ I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world.**

2. However, Christians are to rebuke sin.

Eph. 5: 11-12 **Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; ¹² for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.**

3. We must warn them of the consequences of sin.

a. **Acts 24: 25** – **But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you."**

b. All outside Christ are lost, having no hope and w/o God in this world. **Eph. 2: 12**

c. No matter what sin they avoid, they are lost so Christian must warn them.

Warning is not judging !!

Observing sin is not judging !!

It is Christian love in action !!!

INVITATION :

- A. If you are outside of Christ we are not judging you; we are warning you.
- B. God has set a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness - it's coming.
- C. Every person will answer for every sin ... only Jesus can save you. **LET HIM !!**

Lesson Texts :

Romans 14: 1-4

13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother’s way.

1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.* **2** One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*. **3** The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. **4** Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

I Corinthians 5: 1-5

1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father’s wife. **2** You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst. **3** For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. **4** In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, **5** *I have decided* to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Matthew 7: 1-5

1 Do not judge so that you will not be judged. **2** For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. **3** Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? **4** “Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye? **5** You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.