

**Matthew 7:1-6: There was not a more judgmental and condemning people in all the world in the time of Christ than the scribes/Pharisees. Luke 6:37**

The scribes and Pharisees were the religious leaders/pastors over the people of Israel who waited for their promised Messiah! They represented God to the people!

But they were wicked and ungodly men, full of hypocrisy, and righteous in their own eyes; always ready to condemn and find faults in others.

*Romans 10:3: "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God". Matthew 5:20*

In Matthew 23, the Lord Jesus, in His stark rebuke of the scribes and Pharisees said this: *"Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity"*

**Regrettably, Pharisees STILL exist in the world! They continue to plague and infect Christianity with their hypocrisy & self-righteousness. There are ALSO Pharisees in the world who don't go to church at all. The world is full of them!**

You'll know them, they are blameless in their own eyes, they are "know it all's", and right about everything. They are also quick to judge and condemn others for their sins and faults, BUT dare you ever try to correct them for any sin or fault in their lives. If you do, you'll hear something like this:

*Who are you to judge me?*

**"JUDGE NOT"** are two of the most famously abused/misused partial passages of scripture in the world by both believers/unbelievers! But is the Lord Jesus teaching us (here) that it's WRONG to judge? Consider these passages before you answer:

*Matthew 7:6, 15-20, 1 Corinthians 5:3, 6:1-2, 8*

Can you "JUDGE/DISCERN/DETERMINE" from these scripture references, (which we just read), whether it is right or wrong to judge others? You see, that's it; think about it, you're making a judgment in your mind RIGHT NOW! You're either thinking, he's right, or he's wrong. You're judging me!

*There is a right/wrong way to judge. John 7:24: Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment"*

**In the passage before us, Christ was not teaching us to NEVER JUDGE, nor was he teaching us to universally accept attitudes, behaviors, and/or actions that are wrong and sinful. In (V20) of this same chapter, Christ said, "by their (good or evil) fruits ye shall know them."**

If you are going to be able to DISCERN between what is good and what is evil, you NEED to know what God calls good and what God calls evil.

Now regarding good and evil, sin and sinners; we are to love sinners, (like Christ did and does), and we are to point sinners to Christ that they might be saved from their sins! But if you're going to do this, you are going to have to be able to judge, discern, teach sinners what God calls right & wrong!

*And, you need to be able to do it in meekness and love!*

Christian, think about what the world has become; a society in which there is no sound judgment, no right and wrong, no good and evil; everything is ok!

*Proverbs 16:25, Judges 17:6, 21:25*

Child of God, you are NOT called by God to approve of or tolerate sin and wrong behavior without calling it what it is; YOU ARE to absolutely make sound judgments in the world based on the truths of God's Word!

*But get ready, the world doesn't like to be reproved or instructed in what God calls right and wrong!*

In this text, Jesus is NOT prohibiting us from judging others, He is simply teaching us HOW to judge our brothers or sisters, our neighbor, and friends and the world.

*We know this to be true, because in the end of this small text, (V5), Christ teaches us HOW to take the speck out of our brother's or sister's eye. But to DO THIS, (to rightly judge), you need to be able to SEE CLEARLY FIRST!*

To JUDGE: Means to separate or make a distinction between things, or to discriminate. (Between actions/behaviors). But "in the world", the word "JUDGMENT" always brings with it a negative connotation.

Christian, know that you are absolutely called to judge between right and wrong in the world; but when you do, you better make sure you know what you are talking about. And you need to make sure you are making right judgments that are based on the truth of God's Word and with charity and meekness, and not just on appearances or on your own faulty/subjective opinions!

**"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete it, it shall be measured to you again"**

Be so careful of being quick to judge others (of making rash judgments); because YOU will ALSO be judged; YES, by others (family, friends, neighbors, and people at work) who will judge you "with the same severity" OR "with the same kindness and charity" in which you judged them.

*If you harshly judge others in the world for their faults/sins, you will be harshly judged by the world when you are overtaken in a fault. Especially YOU Christian! Job 4:3-8*

But what is more important to understand from "Judge not, that ye be not judged" is that YOU must be so careful in making judgments, condemning others BECAUSE YOU will be JUDGED BY GOD!

And Christian, YOU SHOULD NOT be a CONDEMNING and JUDGING PERSON, always giving your negative opinions about others and their faults, and never finding anything positive to say about others; because with what judgment you judge others, God will judge you!

*1 John 2:28, Romans 2:1-11, 2 Samuel 12:1-7*

Be so careful of making judgments/condemning someone else, for in very deed you may be condemning yourself! (David). The sins and faults of others should provoke us to FIRST judge ourselves! *"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged"*.

*Christian you shouldn't be a fault finder, one who is always condemning others, always judging the behaviors of others rather than judging and examining yourself.*

**(V3-5): Christ teaches us the right way to judge our brother or our sister; (or our neighbor); ONLY after you have FIRST judged/examined yourself!**

BUT if you have NOT FIRST JUDGED YOURSELF, ask yourself "WHY" AM I JUDGING the one who's fault or sin, I am beholding?

The religious leaders in the time of Christ were infamous for this type of RASH and HYPOCRITICAL judgment.

They were SO ready to call out and rebuke others for their sins, but they refused to hold themselves to the same standard by which they judged others. Case in point: The woman taken in adultery. They were so ready to stone her until the Lord Jesus rebuked them and awakened their own consciences to FIRST judge their own hearts.

John 8:1-11

**(V4-5): When YOU behold a fault or sin in one of your brethren, if YOU have NOT FIRST judged yourself, and first examined our own heart, YOU CANNOT SEE CLEARLY ENOUGH to properly, and with charity and humility correct and instruct and help someone who has fallen into sin. You're NOT QUALIFIED!**

Christian, if you are always searching for and finding faults in others, you're being a hypocrite, the Lord Jesus is telling you that you have a "BEAM" or "LOG" in your own eye.

Thomas Scott: "In spiritual optics, a beam in the eye generally renders a man quick sighted in discerning other men's faults, and blind to his own."

Remember, with what judgment ye judge, you shall be judged of God! But before you go tell someone about their sins and their faults, spend a little time looking into the spiritual mirror; examine and judge yourself; and PRAY!

And then, when you've considered yourself and your faults, now you're ready to go to your brother or sister and help them with the "spec" that is in their eye.

YOU CAN'T SEE CLEARLY enough to judge ANYONE until you deal with yourself and your own sins! Before you judge anyone, first judge yourself!

Galatians 6:1, 2 Timothy 2:22-26, Matthew 7:1-5