

You Judge Me; You Judge Me Not

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet sources)

Introduction:

A. Matt. 7:1-5

1. Did you know that Matthew 7:1 is quickly replacing John 3:16 as the most frequently memorized and quoted verse in the Bible?
2. For the brother who appoints himself as the guardian of others' virtue
3. For the brother who objects to his self-appointed guardianship - "Who are you to judge me!?"

B. 1John 4:7 - The answer to both sides of this question: if I love my brother...

1. Why do I assume the worst intentions in him?
2. Why do I put the worst possible spin on his words and actions?
3. Why do I assume people are judging me?
4. Why does my fear of what others may see in me keep me from doing or saying things harmless in themselves? "I don't do that because someone might see it and think..."

C. Where were you before you succeeded? Who were you before you changed?

1. Everyone needs a trigger, a driving force, and a maintenance structure in order to succeed. These will often vary widely with individuals.
 - a. What works for you may not work for me and vice versa.
 - b. You may learn and change at a different pace than me.
2. Illustration: Dieters...
 - a. Trigger - struck to the core by appearance, doctor gave bad health news, peer pressure
 - b. Driving force - fear, worthy goal, etc.
 - c. Maintenance structure - dieting with a friend, logging it, daily measuring progress, etc.
3. Each person must find the mechanism that will get them moving, keep them moving, and help them maintain the pace
4. This will work with study, service, spiritual mindedness... find the trigger, accept the motivation, and look for a maintenance mechanism that works for you

D. What would you now say to you then? How would treat and speak to yourself before you succeeded?

1. You have a responsibility to the weak, and judging them is not it.
2. 1Thes. 5:14; Gal. 6:1; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12
3. Now, I am done talking to the brother accused of judging others.
4. The rest of this lesson is for the brother who repeatedly chants: "Stop judging me!"

E. Weaker brethren have a tendency to fall into patterns of behavior that not only hinders their growth, in some cases can reverse it

1. Habits that hinder participation in things that will lead to growth, stability, and strength; habits that may be harmless in themselves, but the weak are comfortable with them and unwilling to change

2. Fear of being judged; frequently based on a failure to distinguish between judging and salvaging
3. Unwilling to trust others to care
4. Fear of complete knowledge of self; listening to the brother who is trying to save him forces him to admit he needs saved; makes many angry.
 - a. Do you really want him to feel indifferent toward you?
 - b. If you reject his help, you may not vilify him later when you have made a complete mess of your life

I. DO NOT MISUSE MATTHEW 7:1!

- A. The word “judge” in English means “to pronounce judgment; to express strong disapproval or harsh criticism.” It refers to “act the part of a judge; or to pass judgment on the words and deeds of another.”
 1. Judge in scripture is “krino” meaning: “to distinguish, decide mentally or judicially, to try, condemn, punish; avenge, conclude, condemn, damn, decree, determine, esteem, judge, go to or sue at the law, ordain, call in question, sentence, think” (Strong’s); meaning is broad and contextual
- B. Jesus said: “Judge not.” Does this mean that all judgment is wrong?
 1. 1Cor. 5:3-5, 12-13; Matt. 7:6, 15-20; 1John 4:1-3; John 7:24
 2. Matt. 18:15-17
- C. The difference is in the motive and purpose
 1. One is faultfinding, condemning, and picky
 2. The other allows the words and actions of others define the direction of their lives; because they care for them and their souls, they intervene
 3. The person who appoints himself as the judge of others, will himself face judgment someday. God will use the same level of harshness on him that the man used on others - Gal. 6:7.
- D. The weak want the brother who cares about him to say nothing because:
 1. “You don’t know all the facts”
 2. “We all sin”
 3. “You don’t know my heart”
 4. “You’re not God; I want God to judge me”
 5. “You’re going to face God in judgment”
- E. These are not Biblical reasons for the strong brother to avoid helping you. It is not wrong to confront a person with his sin. It is wrong if one doesn’t.
 1. Lev. 19:17; Prov. 27:5-6; Luke 17:3
 2. If you love your brother, you will confront him when he is wrong. If you don’t care about him you will not.

Conclusion:

A. The next time a brother who loves you takes a risk and talks to you about a hurtful pattern of behavior you’ve fallen into, say “Thank you.” Don’t pick apart his words or manners or expression. See it for what it is; someone loves you and cares for your wellbeing. If you constantly judge others for correcting you, sooner or later you will take offense, depart the faith, blame everyone for judging you, and then go to hell later.

B. "One of the bigger mistakes of our time, I suppose, was preaching the demonization of all judgment without teaching how to judge righteously. We now live in an age where everyone is unable to bear even good judgment when it passes by. Yet everyone has a viral opinion about everything and everyone else, but little skill in good judgment in its expression" (Crissjani).

C. "The wise do not buy into other people's perceptions of who they are and what they are capable of. Instead, they bypass a person's public persona and see who they are in their highest expression. When you see actions taken with integrity, instead of words only, you will then know a soul's worth" (Shannon Alder).