

Judging with Righteous Judgment
Matthew 7:1-5

Tom Jenkins
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Introduction: We should not judge others with a measure of judgment we would not want for ourselves. Several factors are overlooked when we hurry to redirect the attention for our sins from ourselves to others. "*Judge not that you be not judged*" is often quoted out of context.

I. Consider your own faults before noting the faults of others. Often, others faults seem very large while yours seem very small.

II. Jesus said we should first examine ourselves before judging other. After examining ourselves, we should help others correct their faults and help them rid themselves of these faults from their lives. Honor comes when we strive to rid ourselves of our faults.

III. Jesus did not forbid judging others, as long as we judge with right judgment, neither hypocritical or unrighteous. (John 7:24)

First: In spiritual matters, the judgment we make cannot be based on our own standards. The standards by which we judge are those of Jesus Christ. (John 12:47-48)

Second: Do not make inconsistent judgments or judge with partiality; be fair and just. Fairness must be the basis of judgment.

Third: Do not make judgments on the basis of outward appearances. (John 7:24) Things are not always the way they appear to be. (Proverbs 18:13)

Fourth: Do not make judgments as a response to someone judging you. Don't temper your guilt by accusing the accuser of bad intentions; simply reply, "I have sinned against the Lord" (II Samuel 12:13).

Fifth: If you judge, judge with mercy. "Judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy" (James 2:13). We will all be judged with the same measure of judgment we have used on others. (Matthew 7:2)

Sixth: If you must judge, judge righteously with no regard for possible consequences, fear of losing favor, of physical threats or financial loss.

Conclusion: If you must judge, judge with righteous judgment.