

Judging

Unknown

Does the Bible forbid or allow one human to judge another human in light of Matthew 7:1, “Judge not that ye be not judged.” In general, today’s society advocates tolerance. Every person is believed to have the right to determine good and evil for themselves and may do so without any opposition from another.

We will strive to see that this text does not condemn all judging. Rather, we will consider what kind of judging the citizens of Jesus’ kingdom are to avoid. We will also consider how the citizens of Jesus’ kingdom are to judge.

Does Jesus forbid all forms of judgment?

1. Read Matthew 7:6.
 - a. Does Jesus forbid making evaluations and judgments?
 - b. Who are to be considered “dogs” and “swine?”

2. Read Matthew 7:15–16. Who are “false prophets?” How does one determine whether a prophet is false?

In the Sermon on the Mount (of which Matthew 7 is a part) Jesus establishes the principles of his kingdom. In many places he declares that the righteousness of the citizens of his kingdom must exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees (5:20). In Matthew 7 Jesus is condemning the way in which the Pharisees judged.

1. How did the Pharisees judge?
2. What is to be our only standard in making judgments?
3. What is to be our spirit and attitude when judging another?
4. What is to be our self-examination before we judge another?
5. What is to be our motivation for making judgments?

May we judge? How are we to judge?