

Seven Principles for Practicing Righteousness—Part 6
Only Judge By God’s Standard
Matthew 7:1-12

Over-arching Theme: Jesus commands us to “rightly” judge one another in order to sanctify His bride (cf. Rom. 12:1; Matt. 22:37-40; Lev. 19:17; Gal. 6:1-2; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; Luke 17:3; Matt. 18:15ff; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Rom. 15:1; 1 Cor. 5:1-12; 2 Cor. 2:7; Heb. 12:13; 1 John 4:1-6)

I. **A P** _____ (**vs. 1-2**)

- a. Jesus forbids “wrong” judging, NOT “right” judging (cf. v. 6, 15)
 - i. Wrong = The scribes and Pharisees judged people with arrogance and conceit, using sinful man-made standards, and all they wanted was to condemn others and elevate themselves
 - ii. Right = Christians are to judge one another from a humble heart (as a fellow sinner), only using God’s standards, and always for the motive of helping someone move from sin to holiness
- b. **judge** = *krinō* (κρίνω) = the English words “critic and criticize”
- c. Jesus warns that wrong judging will both condemn you to poor relationships today and that He will use the same standard in your final judgment (cf. Luke 6:37-38)

II. **A P** _____ (**vs. 3-5**)

- a. Right Judgment is to begin by honestly examining yourself
- b. Jesus’ contrast of a speck and a log points out how we often focus on lesser sins of others, ignoring what may be our greater personal sin
 - i. **speck** = *karphos* (κάρφος) = “a small piece of wood or splinter”
 - ii. **log** = *dokos* (δοκός) = “beam, plank of wood”
- c. This sinful tendency makes us a **hypocrite** = *hypokritēs* (ὑποκριτής) = **hypo** under **krino** critic (hiding under a mask)

III. **A P** _____ (**v. 6**)

- a. The Jews considered dogs and swine to be unclean and dangerous (cf. Phil. 3:2; 2 Peter 2:1-3)
- b. Even though we are called to share the Gospel with the entire world, we must also exercise right judgment (discernment) of when it is time to “**shake the dust off your feet**” (cf. Matt. 10:14-16; 11:25; 13:11-13; 58; 15:14; Luke 23:8-9; Acts 13:44-51; 18:5-6; 19:9; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Titus 3:10-11; 2 Peter 2:12, 19-22)

IV. **A P** _____ (**vs. 7-11**)

- a. What Jesus asks of us is impossible in the natural man, so He promises us that if we will pray to Him, He will give us the Holy Spirit Wisdom we need to make these difficult judgments (cf. Luke 11:13; 1 Kings 3:3ff; James 1:5; 4:3)
- b. **ask, seek, knock.** Our prayers should be persistent and consistent (cf. Jer. 29:13; Matt. 26:39, 42, 44; Mark 15:36, 39, 41; Luke 18:2-8; 2 Cor. 12:8; 1 John 5:14)
- c. If earthly fathers (the lesser) give us good gifts, how much more with our heavenly Father (the greater) give us even greater gifts?
 - i. Smooth stones could look like loaves of bread and eel-like fish could look like snakes

V. **A P** _____ (**v. 12**)

- a. This is first time in history we believe the Golden Rule is actually given in its right, positive form: The Royal Law (cf. Lev. 19:18; Deut. 6:5; Matt. 5:17; 22:39-40; Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 5:14; 6:10; James 2:8)
- b. Unconditional love for another is the heart of the Gospel (cf. John 13:34; Rom. 5:5; Gal. 5:22; 1 John 4:19)