

Judging Righteously
John 7:24

Judging righteously

- **John 7:14-24**, Jesus is engaged in another discussion with the corrupt Jewish leaders. He had healed a man on the Sabbath so they declared Him a sinner.
- Jesus appealed to the fact that on the Sabbath, they would circumcise males (the 8th day) and not violate the Sabbath. They did not condemn that behavior.
- Jesus healing on the Sabbath was NOT work! He did something good by making a man completely well.
- Our text!
- Before making a judgment, make sure it is righteous.

Judging righteously

- Judging others has been a fact as long as man has been around.
- Today, we are living in times where we find many mischaracterizations. Consider the recent elections, and our society's "cancel culture", etc. Blanket judgments are made just because someone says or does something different than you.
- Even in religion, we see judging that is contrary to God's desire.
- As Christians, we should NOT participate in such.

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Judging righteously

Implies there are wrong ways to judge

- Consider our text. The declaration of Jesus implies you can judge wrongly.
- **Matthew 7:1-6**, a familiar passage warns against wrongful judging. BUT even it is misused by some to say we should never judge.
- **John 7:24** says otherwise

Judging righteously

What type of judging is condemned? (**Matt. 7:1-5**)

- **Hypocritical judging** – this is what Jesus was exposing in the “Sermon on the Mount”. Corrupt Jews held others to standards they would not follow themselves (**cf. Matthew 23:1-5ff**)
- **Prejudicial judging** – prejudging based upon some outward characteristic – **cf. Luke 18:10-14**
- **Preferential judging** – judging friends different than others – **James 2:1-4, 8-9**

Judging righteously

What type of judging is condemned? (**Matt. 7:1-5**)

- Judging without all the facts – our text – **John 7:24**
Jumping to conclusions – **Proverbs 18:13**
cf. John 7:51 – Nicodemus challenged to this.
- Judging based on YOUR standard – condemning the liberties of others – **Romans 14:1-3ff.**
- **James 4:11-12** – speaking evil of the law by judging a brother wrongly (**cf. Jas. 2:4** – evil thoughts)

When is it right to judge? **John 7:24**

- Casting pearls before swine – **Matthew 7:6**
Giving what is holy to the profane (proven)
- False teachers – **Matthew 7:15-20**,
1 John 4:1
- Erring brothers – **Galatians 6:1**, **James 5:19-20**, **Cf. Matthew 18:15-18** – go to him alone first

When is it right to judge? **John 7:24**

- **Truth vs. error** – **1 Corinthians 2:14-15** – the spiritual man. **Cf. Acts 17:11, 1 Thess. 5:21**
- **Good vs. evil** – **Ephesians 5:11, cf. 1 Cor. 5:9ff**
- **Unruly members** – **Romans 16:17, 1 Corinthians 5:1-7, 2 Thessalonians 3:6.**

When is it right to judge? **John 7:24**

- **In the courtroom** – **Romans 13:1-7** – God ordained government, to punish evil doers.
The Jury is a part of our process.
This is NOT the judging Jesus condemned!
If we are faithful to God, we OUGHT to be the ones serving, because we will “judge with righteous judgment”

How can I judge righteously?

Examine yourself

➤ **2 Corinthians 13:5**

➤ **Matthew 7:1-5**, Jesus calls for us to look to ourselves before we pass judgments on others.

➤ Are you being hypocritical? Are you being HYPERcritical?

➤ Are you driven by genuine love?

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

How can I judge righteously?

Take time to investigate

- Get all the facts before you make a judgment. Pause!
- Try putting yourself into their circumstance.
- Look for purer motives
- Check your standard – **2 Timothy 2:15**

How can I judge righteously?

Remember the “golden rule”

➤ **Matthew 7:12**

ALWAYS ask, how would you want to be treated if the roles were reversed?

Be honest about this!

How can I judge righteously?

Give the “benefit of the doubt”

➤ **1 Corinthians 13:7**

Assume the best, until proven otherwise.

NOTE: This is not saying to ignore the facts.

IF you cannot definitively prove something,
don't jump to conclusions.

How can I judge righteously?

Weigh the consequences of your judgment

- Lives will be affected!
Do you really want to hurt/ruin someone's reputation?
Is it something I can "let it go"?
How will your judgments cause others to perceive you, especially if you are proven wrong?
Will the world see God in you? (**Cf. 1 Cor. 6:1-7**)
- NOTE: This is NOT saying to ignore something that needs to be addressed. If a brother is in sin, we should not ignore that! **It is a call to think BEFORE you act!**

How can I judge righteously?

NEVER forget that the way you judge is how you will be judged!

- **Matthew 7:1, James 2:13** – *Judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*
- Do you need God's grace and forgiveness?
- Do you deserve it? Do you want Him to give you, "the benefit of the doubt"?

Concluding thoughts:

Judging others is an important subject that has a bearing on both this life and the next.

Let us resolve to follow God's will, even in this.

- ✓ We will be better for it
- ✓ Others will be better for it
- ✓ The Lord's cause will be better for it
- ✓ In some small way, we will make the world around us a little better.

Are your judgments
righteous?

Let us pray!
