

Christians Shouldn't Judge

10 Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe, Part 5
July 2nd, 2017

The Dilemma of Our Society

Matthew 7:1 (NKJV) "Judge not,..."

The Matthew 7 passage, read in context, isn't a **PROHIBITION** against judging; it's a stern warning against judging **IMPROPERLY**

TOLERANCE today is mostly defined as allowing others to believe and live in ways that we don't agree with, supporting their right to do so, and refusing to judge their viewpoint and actions as being either right or wrong

Rightly understood, tolerance is a **GREAT** thing – a **NECESSARY** part of the social fabric of our society; it's also a trait every Christ follower should **STRIVE FOR**

The meaning of "tolerance" has **CHANGED** in our society, and if you buy into the belief that we should never judge others, we **DIFFER** from what Jesus said but it also defies logic, obscures truth, and propagates sin

The Truth About Spiritual Truth

Underlying the idea we have no right to judge the beliefs and moral standards of others is another widely held belief: truth and morality are **RELATIVE**

Relative truth and morality is the conviction that there are **NO** universal spiritual truths and **NO** universal moral standards

This idea is accepted **NOWHERE** else – only in the moral and spiritual realm

Why We Need to Judge & How to Do It According to Scripture

If we were forbidden to make moral and spiritual judgments, we would have no objective way to distinguish between **TRUTH** and **ERROR**

Galatians 1:8-9 (NIV) "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!"

1 John 2:3-6 (NLT) "3 And we can be sure that we know Him if we obey His commandments. 4 If someone claims, 'I know God,' but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. 5 But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love Him. That is how we know we are living in Him. 6 Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did."

John 8:10-11 (NIV) "Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she said. 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.'"

If we refuse to label the behaviors Jesus called sin as sin, we're **DISAGREEING** with Jesus, not **FOLLOWING** Jesus

The proper course of action is not to stop judging others; it's to judge **PROPERLY**, or we will probably do more **HARM** than **GOOD**

1. Judge as We Want to BE JUDGED

Remember, the standard we use to judge **OTHERS** will be the standard God uses to judge **US**
Matthew 7:2 (GN) "[Jesus said] For God will judge you in the same way you judge others, and He will apply to you the same rules you apply to others."

Be careful not to judge in others the things you **STRUGGLE WITH**

Watch being “overprotective” by railing against **PAST SINS** in your own life

2. Deal with Our Own Stuff **FIRST**

Matthew 7:3-5 (GN) “[Jesus said] ³Why, then, do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye? ⁴How dare you say to your brother, ‘Please, let me take that speck out of your eye,’ when you have a log in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”

This is especially important to understand especially if you are struggling with a **SECRET** sin – public judgments make private sin that much **WORSE**

3. Don't Judge If God Hasn't **SPOKEN CLEARLY**

There are areas where the Scriptures lay down a general principle without spelling out all the specific **APPLICATIONS** – there is room for **DIFFERING** applications

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT) “¹⁹Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.”

1 Corinthians 6:18 (NIV) “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.”

Anything left out of the Bible was not left out by **MISTAKE**

4. Don't judge non-Christians by Christian **STANDARDS**

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 (NLT) “⁹When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. ¹⁰But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. ¹¹I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people. ¹²It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. ¹³God will judge those on the outside.”

When it comes to dealing with God's standards, we are to focus on **OURSELVES** & the **FAMILY** of God

5. Our role in judging is to **EVALUATE & PROTECT** (spiritual leaders) or **DISCERN & RESTORE** (fellow-Christians)

Matthew 7:15-16 (NLT) “[Jesus said] Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act.”

Galatians 6:1 (NLT) “Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.”

6. Judge with **GRACE**

HATE the sin and love the **SINNER**

Matthew 22:39 “[Jesus said] And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

My Next Step Today Is:

- If there are people in my life whom I believe I need to judge, I will do so but by God's guidelines
- I will take the challenge to discover God's will for my life by reading the daily verses provided for the next few weeks

Next week: Join us as we explore **Dumb Mistake #6: Everything Happens for a Reason.** Bring a friend!

Christians Shouldn't Judge

10 Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe, Part 5
July 2nd, 2017

The Dilemma of Our Society

Matthew 7:1 (NKJV) "Judge not,..."

The Matthew 7 passage, read in context, isn't a _____ against judging; it's a stern warning against judging _____

_____ today is mostly defined as allowing others to believe and live in ways that we don't agree with, supporting their right to do so, and refusing to judge their viewpoint and actions as being either right or wrong

Rightly understood, tolerance is a _____ thing – a _____ part of the social fabric of our society; it's also a trait every Christ follower should _____

The meaning of "tolerance" has _____ in our society, and if you buy into the belief that we should never judge others, we _____ from what Jesus said but it also defies logic, obscures truth, and propagates sin

The Truth About Spiritual Truth

Underlying the idea we have no right to judge the beliefs and moral standards of others is another widely held belief: truth and morality are _____

Relative truth and morality is the conviction that there are _____ universal spiritual truths and _____ universal moral standards

This idea is accepted _____ else – only in the moral and spiritual realm

Why We Need to Judge & How to Do It According to Scripture

If we were forbidden to make moral and spiritual judgments, we would have no objective way to distinguish between _____ and _____

Galatians 1:8-9 (NIV) "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!"

1 John 2:3-6 (NLT) "3 And we can be sure that we know Him if we obey His commandments. 4 If someone claims, 'I know God,' but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. 5 But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love Him. That is how we know we are living in Him. 6 Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did."

John 8:10-11 (NIV) "Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she said. 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.'"

If we refuse to label the behaviors Jesus called sin as sin, we're _____ with Jesus, not _____ Jesus

The proper course of action is not to stop judging others; it's to judge _____, or we will probably do more _____ than _____

1. Judge as We Want to _____

Remember, the standard we use to judge _____ will be the standard God uses to judge _____
Matthew 7:2 (GN) "[Jesus said] For God will judge you in the same way you judge others, and He will apply to you the same rules you apply to others."

Be careful not to judge in others the things you _____

Watch being “overprotective” by railing against _____ in your own life

2. Deal with Our Own Stuff _____

Matthew 7:3-5 (GN) “[Jesus said] ³Why, then, do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye? ⁴How dare you say to your brother, ‘Please, let me take that speck out of your eye,’ when you have a log in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”

This is especially important to understand especially if you are struggling with a _____ sin – public judgments make private sin that much _____

3. Don't Judge If God Hasn't _____

There are areas where the Scriptures lay down a general principle without spelling out all the specific _____ – there is room for _____ applications

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT) “¹⁹Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.”

1 Corinthians 6:18 (NIV) “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.”

Anything left out of the Bible was not left out by _____

4. Don't judge non-Christians by Christian _____

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 (NLT) “⁹When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. ¹⁰But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. ¹¹I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people. ¹²It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. ¹³God will judge those on the outside.”

When it comes to dealing with God's standards, we are to focus on _____ & the _____ of God

5. Our role in judging is to _____ (spiritual leaders) **or** _____ (fellow-Christians)

Matthew 7:15-16 (NLT) “[Jesus said] Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act.”

Galatians 6:1 (NLT) “Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.”

6. Judge with _____

_____ the sin and love the _____

Matthew 22:39 “[Jesus said] And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

My Next Step Today Is:

- If there are people in my life whom I believe I need to judge, I will do so but by God's guidelines
- I will take the challenge to discover God's will for my life by reading the daily verses provided for the next few weeks

Next week: Join us as we explore Dumb Mistake #6: Everything Happens for a Reason. Bring a friend!