



How to Judge Others
July 28, 2019
Matthew 7:1-6 & 15-23

“Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get” (Matthew 7:1-2).

Jesus’ teaching does not mean that Christians should not discern right from wrong or that they should not teach others the law of love that Jesus revealed. Rather, when Christians see wrong being done, they should immediately ask the Holy Spirit to show them how best to respond. Later in His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commanded, “Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you” (Matthew 7:6). To heed this warning, Christians must pray and think to discern or judge whether a person’s behavior indicates that they are like a dog or a hog. Christians do not seek to condemn others; instead, based on their behavior, Christians pray to discern whether trying to help someone by teaching them the truth about Jesus would likely lead to their accepting the truth or their rejecting what is holy in horrible ways. If we judge or condemn someone based on our personal standards; then, we will be judged or condemned based on the standards we have set. The inconsistency of some between the way they want others to live and the way they themselves live would be laughable, if they did not have the power to distress many people by requiring them to follow their standards. On the great Day of Judgment, if someone claimed that they did not deserve condemnation, God would only need to show them how they had condemned others for practicing the very things that they themselves practiced.

Thinking Further

1. What is the difference between “the measure you give” in Matthew 7:2 and the law of love as expressed in the Ten Commandments and Jesus’ teaching?
2. What did Jesus mean when talking about “the speck” and “the log” in someone’s eye?
3. If you are not supposed to judge, how will you know when or if you can give something holy to someone without being mauled?
4. Do we have “false prophets” today? If so, what standard would you use to judge whether someone was a false prophet or not?
5. How can you judge whether a person is a good person or a bad person?