



PREACHING THE CROSS
God's Remedy for a Troubled Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

An Excursus: Righteous Judgments Verses Judgmentalism

Sunday, June 5, 2016

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TEXT: Matthew 7:1-5, cf., 1 Corinthians 2:15; 5:11-13; 6:2-3.

I. JESUS' TEACHING ON JUDGMENT IN MATTHEW 7:1-5.

In order to understand what Jesus is teaching here, we must determine what He is saying and what He is not saying in His comment, "*Do not judge so that you will not be judged.*"

A. Jesus Is Not Saying That We Are *Never to Judge*.

1. Judgment is needed to determine the dog and the hogs in Matthew 7:6.

2. Judgment is needed to determine the *false prophet* in Matthew 7:15-20.

a. We are to judge every spirit, 1 John 4:1.

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

b. We need to judge doctrinal preaching, Gal 1:8-9.

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

B. Jesus Is Saying That We Are to *Be Careful in Judging*.

1. Examine your motives before examining your fellow brother, 5:1-2.

Why am I judging?

2. Examine yourself before examining your fellow brother, 5:3-4.

Should I be judging?

3. Examine your fellow brother with a sincere desire to help, 5:5.

How should I be judging?

Jesus does not say it is wrong to help our brother remove the speck in his eye. He says we must first remove the log in our own eye to see clearly before we can help others.

Clarity of sight is needed

a. To judge righteously, John 7:24.

“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

b. To appraise with the mind of Christ, 1 Cor. 2:15-16.

*15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.
16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.*

(1) One cannot judge correctly until the whole story is known.

(2) One cannot judge correctly unless the mind of Christ is known (as revealed in the Word).

II. PAUL’S TEACHINGS ON JUDGMENT IN FIRST CORINTHIANS

A. 1 Corinthians 2:15

Only those with the Spirit are qualified to make spiritual assessments.

B. 1 Corinthians 4:3-5

Only God is qualified to judge the true motives of the minister.

C. 1 Corinthians 5: 11-13; 6:2-3.

God has given the church the responsibility to judge its members’ actions and to render judgment in disputes between members.

III. APPLICATIONS

A. What is Biblically Prohibited in Judging?

1. We are not to judge another person's motives.

2. **We are not to judge using wrong or extra-biblical standards.**
3. **We are not to act as the ultimate judge.**
4. **We are not to judge with a wrong spirit**
5. **We are not to judge without examining ourselves.**
6. **We are not to judge outsiders.**

B. What is Biblically Permitted in Righteous Judging?

1. **We are permitted to evaluate— humbly and lovingly— the visible conduct of others to make moral assessments.**
2. **We are permitted to evaluate the teaching of others to make doctrinal assessments.**
3. **We are permitted to evaluate *character by actions* to make character assessments, i.e., *by their fruits you will know them*. (A man does what he does, because he is what he is.)**
4. **We are to wait for final judicial judgments *until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.***

CONCLUSION: *“The Cold Within” by James Patrick Kinney.*

Six humans trapped in happenstance
In dark and bitter cold,
Each one possessed a stick of wood,
Or so the story's told.

Their dying fire in need of logs
The first man held his back
For of the faces round the fire
He noticed one was black.

The next man looking cross the way
Saw not one of his church,
And couldn't bring himself to give
The fire his stick of birch.

The third one sat in tattered clothes
He gave his coat a hitch,
Why should his log be put to use,
To warm the idle rich?

The rich man just sat back and thought
Of the wealth he had in store,
And how to keep what he had earned,
From the lazy, shiftless poor.

The black man's face bespoke revenge
As the fire passed from sight,
For all he saw in his stick of wood
Was a chance to spite the white.

The last man of this forlorn group
Did nothing except for gain,
Giving only to those who gave to him,
Was how he played the game.

Their logs held tight in death's still hands
Was proof of human sin,
They didn't die from the cold without,
They died from the cold within."