



B3-C06-S02

Judging Righteously Discernment Without Hypocrisy

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Purpose of This Study

Scripture does not forbid judgment itself, it forbids hypocritical, self-righteous judgment. Believers are commanded to judge righteously according to the Word of YHWH, to discern truth from error, to confront sin within the body, and to leave final judgment and vengeance to God alone. This study clarifies the difference between sinful judgment and righteous discernment as taught by Christ and the apostles.

Judging other Christians and Non-Christians

Although judging others is common, Scripture teaches that judgment often reveals the condition of the heart more than the condition of the person being judged. Judgment made apart from truth, humility, and obedience to YHWH quickly becomes sinful and deceptive. The human heart is capable of self-justification and error, and therefore judgment must be measured against the Word of God rather than personal perception or emotion.

Before forming judgments about others, believers are commanded to examine themselves first. Scripture teaches that the heart can be deceitful, and that a person can misinterpret situations when judgment flows from pride, fear, or unresolved sin. This is why Christ commands self-examination before addressing the sin of another person. A believer who forgets their identity in Christ will either judge harshly to protect pride or refuse judgment altogether to protect comfort.

Scripture calls believers to renew their minds and to walk in patience and mercy. We are warned against assuming motives or judging matters without sufficient truth. Love believes all things, hopes all things, and seeks understanding before accusation. When judgment is delayed until truth is known, sin is avoided and righteousness is preserved.

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Now, the gift of discernment is distinct, and discernment must always be tested against Scripture, because true discernment comes from the Spirit of YHWH and never contradicts His Word.

Discernment does not originate in the flesh or emotional impulse but must be governed by the Spirit through the Word. The flesh resists truth, the soul decides, and the Spirit leads. When discernment is driven by emotion or self-interest, it becomes judgment without righteousness.

The meaning of “we are not to judge others” is an issue that has confused many people. On one hand, we are commanded by our Lord “Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach). **Matthew 7:1 (KJV)** Judge not, that ye be not judged.

On the other hand, the Bible also exhorts us to beware, rebuke, mark, reprove, and even to withdraw ourselves from those who do not walk in truth and obedience to the word of YHWH. (Christians, false teachers, pastors, evildoers, etc.).

2 Tim 4:2 (KJV) Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; **reprove**, rebuke, **exhort** with all longsuffering and doctrine.

1 Timothy 5:20 (KJV) Them that sin **rebuke before all**, that others also may fear.

Rom 16:17 (KJV) Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark them** which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; **and avoid them.**

Eph 5:11 (KJV) And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather **reprove them.**

1 Timothy 6:3 (KJV) If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord “Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach), and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; **4** He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, **5** Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: **from such withdraw thyself.** **6** But godliness with contentment is great gain.

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2 John 10 (KJV) If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

How are we to discern who these people are if we do not make some kind of judgment about them?

Christ's command to "judge not" does not abolish discernment, correction, or accountability. It condemns judgment that is hypocritical, self-exalting, and detached from truth. Scripture consistently teaches that believers must judge between truth and error, righteousness and sin, using the Word of YHWH as the standard rather than personal opinion.

Scripture never commands blind acceptance. Believers are repeatedly instructed to test what they hear, what they believe, and what is presented as truth, because false teaching, false assurance, and false righteousness are real dangers within the body of believers (**1 John 4:1; Jude 1:3**). Righteous judgment begins with testing, not assuming.

Those people who call for tolerance and quote "judge not" out of context are not using sound thinking. They are calling for tolerance, and this is impossible because as followers of Christ, we are called to judge righteously and judging between right and wrong is something we do every day, and it should be a part of biblical discernment in every believer's thinking. But it is YHWH's Word that makes the judgment on morality and truth, not our own opinions or theories.

What's the purpose of judging error in a biblical manner?

The church is to be built on the foundation of Christ and the authority of His Word, **Ephesians 2:20 (KJV)** And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, "Christ" (**יהושוע** Jehoshua Hamashiach) himself being the chief corner stone; and that means believers should examine their own lives regularly and also lovingly challenge Christian brothers and sisters who are in error or commit sin. To do this, believers must be bold for Christ, but they also have to be humble, loving, and kind. We encourage you to keep these things in mind as you strive daily to maintain unity in the truth of Christ.

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Christians are often accused of "judging" whenever they speak out against a sinful activity. However, that is not the meaning of the Scripture verses that state, "Do not judge." There is a righteous kind of judgment we are supposed to exercise with careful discernment

Areas Where Judgment Must Be Withheld

We should withhold judgment on personal preferences (non-moral issues) on which the Bible has no clear teaching.

Romans 14:1-8 speaks about not judging another believer because of their eating preferences or how they view the significance of special days.

Scripture also warns against false humility that refuses correction or discernment under the appearance of gentleness. Refusing to judge error is not love, it is negligence. Silence in the face of falsehood is not humility, it is disobedience.

We should not judge people just by their outward appearance (**John 7:24; James 2:1-4**). Someone's height, weight, color of their skin or hair, their ethnicity should never be judged. Bottom line, we should abstain from judging all of the areas where the Bible clearly has no scriptural substantiation for judgment. Scripture clearly addresses modesty, the adornment of the body, and outward conduct, and therefore these matters are not exempt from biblical evaluation. **John 7:24 (KJV)** Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

James 2:1-4 (KJV) My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord "Christ" (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach), the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

When "Christ" (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) told us not to judge in **Matthew 7:1**, He was telling us not to judge hypocritically. **Do not be a hypocrite.**

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We should not judge the value of another Christian's service. 1

Corinthians 4:1-5 (KJV) Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

The following verse gives us an example of the divisions in the church of Corinth because of jealousy over gifts and the holding one ministry more valued than another. **1 Corinthians 3:1-9 (KJV)** And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

We shouldn't think that we can preach better than another or that our calling or ministry is more valuable than another, or that someone who doesn't have the same gift and calling that we do is any less a Christian or important to the Kingdom.

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We have to be careful on judging others when we have a “worst” sin. It does not mean we should not call out someone’s sin, else NO ONE would be corrected!

Scripture does not teach that a believer must be free from all sin before confronting sin in another. It teaches that a believer must first examine, repent, and walk honestly before God. Repentance does not disqualify correction, it qualifies it. Hypocrisy is condemned, not accountability. A believer who refuses to judge himself loses moral clarity, but a believer who repents may still confront sin with humility and truth. **Matthew 7:2-5 (KJV)** For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Matthew 7:15-16 (KJV) Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? What “Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) was condemning here was the hypocritical, self-righteous judgments of others. The point He emphasizes here is to judge yourself first before you make judgments about others. Also, notice the discernment and judgment required.

Matthew 7:15-20 (KJV) Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. The broader context, “Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) is telling believers to be discerning when it comes to false teaching and false prophets because they “look” Christian, but their goal is to lead the flock astray. **Luke 6:43-45**

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(KJV) For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

In **Matthew 7:2-5**, “Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) warns against judging someone else for his sin when you yourself are sinning even worse. That is the kind of judging He commanded us not to do. If a believer sees another believer sinning, it is his Christian duty to confront the person lovingly and respectfully with his sin.

While Scripture restricts judgment in matters of conscience and personal preference, it clearly commands judgment in matters of truth, sin, and church order.

Areas Where Judgment Is Commanded

Christians are to judge disputes between members of the local body of believers so they can settle these disputes. **1 Corinthians 6:1-8 (KJV)** Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.

The local church is to judge the unrepentant sins of its members, and to take the appropriate actions. **1 Corinthians 5:3-5 (KJV)** For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning

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him that hath so done this deed, In the name of our Lord “Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach), when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord “Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach), To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord “Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach).

Paul makes it clear that Christians are to judge those in the church. Concerning a man who sinned in the church Paul said, "I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present".

He also said, "What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? YHWH will judge those outside. Expel the wicked man from among you." **1 Corinthians 5:12-13 (KJV)** For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

Matthew 18:15-17 (KJV) Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. This is not judging, but rather pointing out the truth in hope and with the ultimate goal of bringing repentance in the other person and restoration to the fellowship.

James 5:20 (KJV) Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

We are to speak the truth in love.

Ephesians 4:15 (KJV) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

We are to proclaim what YHWH's Word says about sin.

2 Timothy 4:2 (KJV) Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

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We are to "judge" sin, but always with the goal of presenting the solution for sin and its consequences very patiently without complaining and with truth.

Now what happens if they do not ask for forgiveness or do not repent or just do not care?

If the sinful believer refuses to repent, then we are to break fellowship with them until they repent and correct their ways. **1 Corinthians 5:11-13 (KJV)** But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

Much of the apostasy in the church today is a direct result of our failure to obey YHWH's Word and appoint people who are qualified according to His Word.

We are told in **1 Thessalonians 5:14** to "warn them that are unruly." In **verse 15**, we are told to "See that none render evil for evil unto any man." So, it is clear that we as disciples have to be discerning about other believers. This doesn't mean that we are to go around looking for every little speck or flaw, but that when we see people doing things that are clearly unbiblical then we are to speak up and say something.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 (KJV) Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. **15** See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

We are also to examine or scrutinize ourselves to see if our faith is real (**2 Corinthians 13:5-7**). This testing is to see if we are truly saved and if we are doing right in the sight of YHWH. We are also told to judge ourselves before we partake of the Lord's Supper to see if our spiritual condition is correct (**1 Corinthians 11:31**).

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2 Corinthians 13:5-7 (KJV) Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that “Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) is in you, except ye be reprobates? But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates. Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.

1 Corinthians 11:31 (KJV) For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

Judging Unbelievers

Now, when it comes to Judging **NON-CHRISTIANS** (non-believers), it is completely different.

Mark 11:25 (KJV) And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

When you forgive an unbeliever you are acknowledging that they have wronged you, but you will not try to seek justice yourself, you will leave that to YHWH. In this way you may live peacefully. **Romans 12:19 (KJV)** Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 (KJV) For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

How are we to treat non-believers?_

Believers are commanded to reflect the character of Christ through truth, love, patience, and obedience. We do not excuse sin, but we do not pronounce final judgment upon those whom YHWH has not yet judged. Our role is to witness, to speak truth, and to live in a way that reflects the transforming power of the Spirit.

Judgment without truth is compromise. Judgment without love is cruelty. But truth spoken in love is obedience, and obedience always honors YHWH. Righteous judgment is not optional, because obedience to God requires discernment, correction, and accountability within the body.

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