

Christianity 101: Judging and Being Judgmental — Matthew 7:1-6

As Jesus continued with His instructions as to how the disciples were to live a righteous life, He touched on the area judging others. This was something that the Pharisees were prone to do, but are we? Today we'll see:

- We are not to judge, or are we?
- Being judgmental means judging hypercritically and hypocritically
- Principles we need to have while judging

Digging Deeper

Judging without being judgmental sometimes can be a tricky balancing act. But, if a Christian has love for people along with a desire for God's truth, it is something that everyone can do. Let's look at these Scriptures and see some aspects about judging.

1. Read Romans 6:1-2. If God always forgives sin, does that mean that we can do whatever we want?
2. Read Hebrews 12:6. Does God care what we do with our lives? Does this mean that God judges us, even though we are not judged (condemned)?
3. Read the story of the Adulterous Woman in John 8:1-11. As Jesus was teaching, the Pharisees brought in this woman caught committing adultery. Why did these men bring her before Jesus (vs. 6)? How did Jesus act in return?
4. What happened to these men? Do you think this shows that they were judging hypercritically and / or hypocritically?
5. Was Jesus merciful to the woman? Did He excuse her from sinning?

As disciples of Christ, we should act like He does being merciful, but not compromising!

Taking It Farther—Reading throughout the week

Mon.	Galatians 6:1-2	Before judging anyone, who should we first judge?
Tues.	James 2:12-13	If God has shown us mercy, do we not need to be merciful?
Wed.	James 4:11-12	Is being judgmental a way of being arrogant ?
Thurs.	1 Cor. 6:1-3	Does God want us to use sound judgment to resolve matters?
Fri.	John 7:21-24	The Word of God is the true basis for judgment, yet how often is it consulted?

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1. Read Romans 6:1-2. If God always forgives sin, does that mean that we can do whatever we want? **No. God is glorified by forgiving us because it puts His grace on display. However, that doesn't mean that we should abuse His grace. When a Christian accepts Christ, he repents of his sins (He died to them). With repentance we should have a different attitude toward sin.**
2. Read Hebrews 12:6. Does God care what we do with our lives? **Yes, so much so that He looks after what we do and disciplines us when we go astray.** Does this mean that God judges us, even though we are not judged (condemned)? **Yes, God does look at our lives and judge whether or not we need to be disciplined and what discipline to use. But, God does not condemn us because of Jesus.**
3. Read the story of the Adulterous Woman in John 8:1-11. As Jesus was teaching, the Pharisees brought in this woman caught committing adultery. Why did these men bring her before Jesus (vs. 6)? **Verse 6 shows the reason why they did this. It was not to follow the Law or do what was right. They were using this woman to entrap Jesus. (If Jesus said, "Stone her," they could have made a case to the Romans. If He said, "Don't," they could have told the people He wanted to break the Law.)** How did Jesus act in return? **His response was Biblical and appropriate: "If anyone is without sin let him cast the first stone."**
4. What happened to these men? **They left, starting with the older ones.** Do you think this shows that they were judging hypercritically and / or hypocritically? **Yes, they were wanting to kill this woman for adultery, yet there is no mention of the man she was with, so it was above reason. Also it was hypocritical because they were not without sin and their ulterior motives showed this.**
5. Was Jesus merciful to the woman? **Yes, He didn't condemn her (to the act of stoning).** Did He excuse her from sinning? **No, He told her to leave her life of sin.**

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