

Pastor's Pen

Judge Or Not To Judge, That's the Question!

"Do not judge, so that you will not be judged."

Matthew 7:1

I posted on social media three heretical teachings of Joyce Meyers. I rebutted those teachings with scripture. One of the comments asked, "Isn't this judging." My reply was, "*Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them*" (Eph. 5:11).

The individual's comment about judging is a belief held by many within the Christian community. However, this verse does not imply that we should not judge other believers. Paul wrote the Church in Corinth, "For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Are you not to judge those who are within the church?" (1 Cor 5:12). We are to judge sin within the body of Christ in order to protect the body and restore a brother or sister in Christ.

There are wrong ways to judge. Below are five ways judgment is wrong (source gotquestions.com).

Superficial judgment is wrong. Passing judgment on someone based solely on appearances is sinful (John 7:24). It is foolish to jump to conclusions before investigating the facts (Proverbs 18:13). Simon the Pharisee passed judgment on a woman based on her appearance and reputation, but he could not see that the woman had been forgiven; Simon thus drew Jesus' rebuke for his unrighteous judgment (Luke 7:36-50).

Hypocritical judgment is wrong. Jesus' command not to judge others in Matthew 7:1 is preceded by comparisons to hypocrites (Matthew 6:2, 5, 16) and followed by a warning against hypocrisy (Matthew 7:3-5). When we point out the sin of others while we ourselves commit the same sin, we condemn ourselves (Romans 2:1).

Harsh, unforgiving judgment is wrong. We are "always to be gentle toward everyone" (Titus 3:2). It is the merciful who will be shown mercy (Matthew 5:7), and, as Jesus warned, "In the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Matthew 7:2).

Self-righteous judgment is wrong. We are called to humility, and "God opposes the proud" (James 4:6). In Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, the Pharisee was confident in his own righteousness and from that proud position judged the publican; however, God sees the heart and refused to forgive the Pharisee's sin (Luke 18:9-14).

Untrue judgment is wrong. The Bible clearly forbids bearing false witness (Proverbs 19:5). "Slander no one" (Titus 3:2).

It is important to remember that you can never judge motives, but you can judge actions. However, it is important to remember the words of Jesus when He said, "*You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye*" (Matthew 7:5).

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"Seek not to grow in knowledge chiefly for the sake of applause, and to enable you to dispute with others; but seek it for the benefit of your souls."

— Jonathan Edwards

Grace Gems

Earth and Heaven

The Valley of Vision

O LORD, I live here as a fish in a vessel of water, only enough to keep me alive, but in heaven I shall swim in the ocean.

Here I have a little air in me to keep me breathing, but there I shall have sweet and fresh gales;

Here I have a beam of sun to lighten my darkness, a warm ray to keep me from freezing; yonder I shall live in light and warmth for ever.

My natural desires are corrupt and misguided, and it is thy mercy to destroy them;

My spiritual longings are of thy planting, and thou wilt water and increase them;

Quicken my hunger and thirst after the realm above.

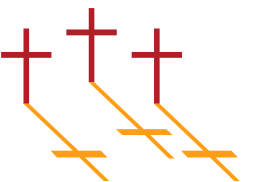
Here I can have the world, there I shall have thee in Christ; Here is a life of longing and prayer, there is assurance without suspicion, asking without refusal;

Here are gross comforts, more burden than benefit, there is joy without sorrow, comfort without suffering, love without inconstancy, rest without weariness.

Give me to know that heaven is all love, where the eye affects the heart, and the continual viewing of thy beauty keeps the soul in continual transports of delight.

Give me to know that heaven is all peace, where error, pride, rebellion, passion raise no head.

Give me to know that heaven is all joy, the end of believing, fasting, praying, mourning, humbling, watching, fearing, repining; And lead me to it soon.



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM



Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
every other week @ Chambers, Cox's,
Patrick's, Brown's and Royall's



Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and forgot to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address.



Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study and AWANA!



Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM
Sunday School 9:30AM
Children's Church @11:00AM



Giving from service on 05/14/2023

General Offering	7,012.18
Building Fund	6,790.00
Uganda	100.00
Benevolence	200.00
Total	\$14,102.18
Attendance	216
Online	21

Uganda Mission Trip Amount Needed.\$12,750.00
Uganda Mission Trip Collected...\$11,257.00

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

May 21, 2023

Welcome

