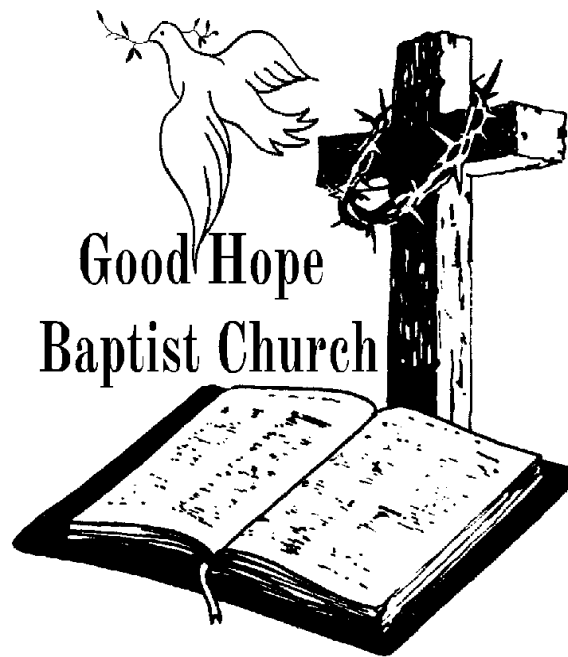


Examine Yourselves

Matthew 7:1-5



Living Together In The Love Of God

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FOCAL Read Responsively Matthew 7:1-5 Judge not, that ye be not judged. (2) For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. (3) And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? (4) **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.**

Today we're going to look at the favorite verse of the unbeliever in Christ. Anytime someone wants to do something that is clearly against the teachings of the Word of God they say "**Doesn't the Bible say, "Judge not, that you be not judged?"**" Well it is true that the Bible says this, but not as the world interprets it. We all make judgments every day. We make judgments based on our senses. When I open up a package of steak I always smell it to see if it is fresh. Fresh meat will not have a rancid smell. If it smells rancid or off flavor then I - using the judgment of my nose - put it back in the bag and return it from whence it came. When I pour a glass of milk and it comes out of the carton in chunks then I won't drink it. If it's buttermilk (which I despise) I still won't drink it. It's not right in my eyes. If I need to go into the storage area in my house and I see a big old black widow spider - fat and shiny black - hanging across the opening, I will make a judgment. I'll destroy the widow's house and life, or else I won't go under the house.

Two men or two women come together in a relationship,

and the world says "Judge not, that you be not judged". Would Jesus be pleased that we use His Words to justify homosexual behavior? Jesus previously preached:

CONTEXT Matthew 5:17-18 **Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.** (18) For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

WORD STUDY Jesus did not come preaching to destroy the Law of God, but to **fulfill or complete it - PLEEROO** (πληρωω, pronounced play-ro'-o).

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Law of God. He perfectly lived the Law. He did not come to overturn the Law, but to explain it, to complete it, to live it for us. The Law of God forbids sexual sin (**Leviticus 18:22** and **20:13**, which declare that for a man to "lie with a male as though lying with a woman" is "an abomination" or "detestable act" -- in **Hebrew, "toevah"** -- something utterly repugnant to God. God classified homosexuality as repugnant as adultery, bestiality, and incest in the same context of Leviticus. See also the Apostle Paul's mention of same-sex intercourse in **Romans 1:24-27**). Jesus never gave approval to sexual sin in any flavor whatsoever.

So what was Jesus talking about?

Jesus wanted us - those who would hear His voice - to *avoid judging others while making ourselves the standard.*

In the spiritual realm all judgment should be based - not on what I or you think - but on what the Word of God says. The Word of God is our scale, our standard for right and wrong.

ILLUSTRATE You rarely see them any more, but there was a time when you bought all of your meat from the Butcher. You would walk into a Butcher's Shop and look at the meat displayed in the glass case. Then you would tell the Butcher how many pounds of that meat you wanted. The Butcher would put a piece of clean paper on the scale, and then put meat on that paper until what you wanted was weighed out. **Scrupulous Butcher's** would give you the right amount of meat. **Unscrupulous Butcher** - also known as thieves - would purposely miscalibrate the scales or else put a thumb on the scale in order to save meat and steal from you. The unscrupulous Butcher used himself as a judge in order to enrich himself and steal from you. The scrupulous Butcher stuck to what the scales said.

The scale of the believer is not his own personal *feelings*, but what the Word of God says. It is not what I *think*, but what the Word of God says.

**1. If I Am Not Right With God
Another Person's Wrongness
Will Not Make Me Right**

ILLUSTRATE Did you hear about the Australian who bought a new boomerang, and then accidentally killed himself trying to throw away his old one?

Judging others has a boomerang effect! We are all sinners, and we are all subject to flaws. Being human means that we sometimes confuse ourselves.

ILLUSTRATE I heard about a woman who was going on a trip, but woke up too late to get breakfast - she barely made it to the airport on time. Checking in her luggage she kept her carry on bag and her purse. On her way to the terminal she stopped at an airport store and bought herself a bag of cookies to eat. When she got to the waiting area she put her bags down and, seeing her bag of cookies on the table in front of her, reached over, opened the bag, and got out a cookie to eat. The man sitting just across from her reached over and got a cookie from her bag, and proceeded to eat it. Angry but saying nothing the lady got another cookie. The man, following her lead, got himself another cookie. She was steaming now, and thinking to herself "How dare he! What a pushy so and so to eat *my cookies!*" Finally the boarding call came, and there was only one cookie left in the bag. The man reached into the bag, broke the remaining cookie in half, and eating it, got up to board the plane. The woman was absolutely redfaced with anger, but still holding it all in. She boarded the plane, put her carry on bag in the overhead compartment, and sat down - *right next to the cookie thief*. Trying to occupy herself and not look at him she gazed into her purse and there she saw *her bag of cookies*. The man who sat beside her was not greedy nor a thief, but he was generous and kind. Though she mistakenly started eating his cookies *he shared what he had*.

Judging others based on our own perceptions has a boomerang effect. It can make us look foolish - but it can also bring condemnation from God on us.

FOCAL Matthew 7:1-2 Judge not, that ye be not judged. (2) For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Do not let yourself be the source of judging others. You are not qualified to judge the life of others, and neither am I. Let the Word of God be the scale by which judgments are made.

Jesus said "**With what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged**".

Judging others diverts our gaze *from ourselves* - and that is *very dangerous*. I will not go into Heaven or Hell based on *what you do*. My damnation or salvation is based on what *I have done*. Have I **received the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior (John 1:12)?**

You see, the Bible says that **we all shall be judged**. The unbeliever in Christ shall be judged by God. The Apostle Paul wrote:

Unbelievers & Judging Romans 2:1-4 Therefore **thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. (2) But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which**

commit such things. (3) And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? (4) Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

WORD STUDY In this text the Apostle is addressing the *unbeliever, not the believer*. He says **you are inexcusable, O man**. The word translated "**man**" is the Greek (ανθρωπος, pronounced *anth'-ro-pos*), from where we get our word **anthropology** meaning **the study of mankind**.

Anthropos is a generic term for men and women of all types, the world in general. Paul is saying to the world itself "who are you to judge anyone or any lifestyle, for you yourselves do the same things against the will of God". He comes back saying "**But WE (who are believers) are sure that the Judgment of God is according to truth AGAINST THEM WHICH COMMIT SUCH THINGS**".

The danger of judging - especially if you're an unbeliever in the Lord Jesus Christ - is that it diverts your gaze *from yourself*. When you stand before a holy and righteous God one day to give an account, you will not be able to point to what another person did or didn't do and justify yourself.

This is what humans - particularly unsaved humans - love to do. They point at the homosexual, point at the person in sexual sin, point at the pedophile, point at the thief or the murderer or the liar, and say "at least I'm not

like them". The Bible warns us, saying "**Do you really think, ANTHROPOS, unbelieving man, that the judgment you render against another will cause you to escape the judgment of God yourself, seeing you do the same thing (Romans 2:3)?**" The answer that Paul was looking for was "No, it won't render me immune".

God is righteous, and holy, and pure. He is without sin. Humanity however is flawed. We all need the Savior. We all need the Lord Jesus Christ.

The danger of judging - particularly with an unbeliever - is that he thinks he will divert God's gaze from himself. Jesus illustrated the danger of this in:

Luke 18:9-14 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: (10) Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. (11) The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. (12) I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. (13) And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. (14) I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Who of the two, the Pharisee or the Publican, **were justified - declared righteous - by God?** Jesus made it

clear that the **Publican who judged himself stood before God justified, whereas the self righteous Pharisee left God's presence condemned.** Why was that? Because the Pharisee used his human abilities and the Publican's shortcomings to justify himself before God. The Publican, however, *relied on the mercy of God for salvation.*

If you will be saved you must rely on the mercy of God. You must rely on the shed Blood of Jesus Christ to save you. You must believe that He gave Himself for you, fulfilling the Law in your place. You must see His broken Body and shed Blood on Calvary - not as a mistake or a martyrdom, but as an absolute necessity.

The only thing that will make me worthy to enter the presence of God is the Present of God: Salvation by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible says:

Hebrews 10:14-20 For by one offering {Jesus} hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. (15) Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, (16) This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; (17) And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (18) Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. (19) Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, (20) By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his

flesh;

What will make a soul acceptable before God? Will it be that this soul is better than that soul? No, for all souls are deficient. **The soul that sinneth, it shall die (Ezekiel 18:4).** But the soul that looks unto God in Christ shall live **(Isaiah 45:22)**

Salvation is of the Lord.

Lordship Salvation **Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.**

The soul that is acceptable to God is the soul of the *repenting Publican* who says to God through Christ, "**God, be merciful to me, a sinner**". Here is where salvation is. It is in Jesus Christ our Lord!

2. When I Spend Time Judging My Brother I Am Wasting Spiritual Energy

FOCAL **Matthew 7:3-4 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? (4) 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?**

Jesus now makes His sermon a little more personal and directed toward the believer. He says "**why do you look at the MOTE in your BROTHER'S eye, and do not**

consider the BEAM in your own eye.

WORD STUDY The word translated "mote" is the Greek KARPPOS (καρπος, pronounced *kar'-fos*), which means "a bit of chaff, a speck of dust". The word translated "beam" is the Greek DOKOS (δοκος, pronounced *dok-os'*), which means "a working beam, a builder's beam". Jesus said "Why are you looking at the tiny bit of dust in your brother's eye, while ignoring the 2x4 in your own eye".

Now that's funny!

ILLUSTRATE From where you are sitting, few of you can see the color of my eyes. If you are close enough you may be able to see what color my eyes are, but you cannot see the specks in my eyes. If you look closely into every person's eyes - even yours - the iris that surrounds the pupil of your eye is composed of *colored specs*. The only way you can see this is to get up close, to get right in someone's face. Now think about this funny illustration Jesus gives us. I come up and have a 2x4 stud, about 8 or 9 feet long, sticking out of my head. I come up to you and, getting as close as I can, I look for the specs in your eyes. If I did that you'd be backing up from me, and probably running away. It would be like the grandmother who dusted and dusted and dusted her house, but for some reason she could not get it clean. After a few hours she took off her glasses and realized the dust was not in the house - it was on her glasses!

It is a waste of spiritual energy for me to judge you. The Bible says:

Romans 14:10-12 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at naught thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. (11) For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. (12) So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

If I am a Christian - and I am - then God has a plan and a purpose for my life. The best thing for me to do is *judge my own life*. I will have to give an account of myself unto God - I won't have to give an account for you, but for me. So I need to look here first, at David's life.

Every believer is saved by God to live their lives for God. You will stand before God and give an account, as will I. **All judgment is given unto the Son.** We are to look into our own eyes first.

ILLUSTRATE Eric Liddell was not only a Missionary to China for the Lord Jesus Christ, he was also a runner. In fact, he was well known for being the fastest runner in Scotland while at Eltham College. During the Summer of 1924 the Olympics were hosted by the city of Paris. The 100 Meter race was scheduled for Sunday, but Eric refused to run. Because of that he was disqualified for that race, and went on to train for - and win - the 400 Meter Race.

On the day of the race someone slipped Eric a piece of paper with a quotation from 1 Samuel 2:30, "Those who honor me I will honor." Eric kept that piece of

paper in his hand through the race. An underdog, he was not expected to win. He not only won, but he broke the existing world record for speed. Eric won the gold medal for the 400 Meter Race and the bronze for the 200 meter race. Eric Liddell knew what God called him to do, and he did it with all his might. You cannot run and win a race by keeping your eyes on the other runners. You need to keep your eyes on the track, and your heart on the goal!

Jesus does not tell us to toss out all judgment. What He says is:

FOCAL Matthew 7:5 **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.**

Do not be a hypocrite! **First cast out the 2x4 from your own eye.** Look to your own life first. Am I doing what God wants me to do? Am I living for Him? Am I even saved?

There are a number of people who think they are saved, but have never truly been saved. Those who are saved are saved by **receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior**. They are saved on the basis of what He did, not what they did. Those who are saved **recognize Jesus Christ as Lord**. They have surrendered their lives to Him. The Bible tells us:

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.

You cannot work your way unto God. However, if you are saved, God is now at work in you. He has a plan for your life, a calling for you to follow.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

and

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

God works in His people. Why do we come together as a local Church? Why, once we are saved, do we keep having Sunday meetings, keep studying this Bible, keep on singing and binding together as a Church. Once saved, why not just go on down the road? After all, your ticket for Heaven is punched? Why not?

God continues to work in the Christian following salvation. He continues to use us to do His will on this earth.

It is such a waste of time - an counterproductive - to spend your days judging your brother. Now let me ask this question: If a brother or a sister is in sin - Biblically defined sin - should we judge this? Absolutely! The Apostle rebuked the Church at Corinth because they had a young man - a member of the Church - involved in sexual sin. He said:

1 Corinthians 5:6-9 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole

lump of dough? (7) Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. (8) Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (9) I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people New American Standard,

Where God's Word - our Scale - mandates it is a sin, then it is a sin! But take care that the Word of God declares the sin and not you.

Judging among brothers and sisters in a local Church fragments the Body, detracts from the Gospel, and keeps us focused on fixing others rather than ourselves. Furthermore judging others causes us to be lifted up in pride where no pride should be. Judging perverts the Christian, and diverts the Christian from the most important thing - his calling and his partnership with God.

ILLUSTRATE A dove flew over a beautiful, grassy meadow. As it flew overhead it saw green trees with wide, and welcoming arms that it could sit on and sing. It saw green grass, and lovely flowers waving in the gentle breeze. A buzzard flew over the same beautiful meadow. What did the buzzard see? It didn't see the trees, nor the grass, nor the flowers. No, it saw a dead animal filled with maggots. You see what you want to see. Do you remember the poem:

**Pussy-cat, pussy-cat, where have you been?
"I've been to London to look at the queen."**

**Pussy-cat, pussy-cat, what did you there?
"I frightened a little mouse under the chair."**

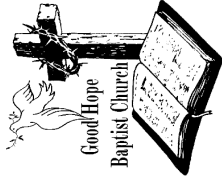
You see what you want to see.

As we come to the Lord's Table today we are told:

1 Corinthians 11:28-31 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. (29) For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. (30) For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. (31) For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

Before you take of the Lord's Table, **examine yourself.** Where are you in your spiritual walk with the Lord? The most important part of the Lord's Table is what you do *before* you eat the bread and drink the cup.

Are you worthy? Are you *born again by faith in the Lord Jesus*? Have you confessed known sin in your lives. Prepare your hearts, Beloved, for His Table.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Matthew 5:17-18; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:24-27

WORD STUDY Jesus did not come preaching to destroy the Law of God, but to **fulfill or complete it - PLEEROO**

Additional Notes _____

**1. If I Am Not Right With God
Another Person's Wrongness
Will Not Make Me Right**

Matthew 7:1-2; John 1:12; Romans 2:1-4; Romans 2:3; Luke 18:9-14; Hebrews 10:14-20; Ezekiel 18:4;

Isaiah 45:22; Isaiah 61:10

WORD STUDY Romans 2:1-4 In this text the Apostle is addressing the *unbeliever, not the believer*. He says **you are inexcusable, O man**. The word translated "**man**" is the Greek (ανθρωπος, pronounced *anth'-ro-pos*), _____

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Matthew 7:3-4; Romans 14:10-12; Matthew 7:5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 5:6-9; 1 Corinthians 11:28-31

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