

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“Judging Others: The Good, Bad, & Ugly”

By Brian Meade

The fact that God calls His people to speak the truth to those around us in the world is without controversy. But how to do that in the proper way can be very challenging at times, especially when there is push back from some who feel they are being “judged” by Christians.

I do want to qualify that statement by saying that this can very well be the case, and more often than not is, when Christians are doing their best to present truth in a loving and uncompromising manner— yet it is said to silence the Christian by an accusation of “judging.”

Matthew 7:1-5 is often incorrectly used for that very purpose. Particularly, using what Jesus said, *“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”* (Matthew 7:1-2).

It is often used out of context to say that all judging is wrong in all circumstances. This completely misses the point Jesus is making in these words of warning— don’t be hypocritical in judging. Something all of us should heed.

Unfortunately, there have been times when Christians have acted very mean-spirited or with improper motives. This is wrong and hurtful to the goal of converting people to Christ. But there have also been times I have seen some use the excuse not to say something when needed and say, “It’s not my place to judge.”

Both Extremes hurt any effectiveness of what we are trying to accomplish in doing God’s will. Therefore we should study this closely in order to clear up any misunderstandings and failings to proper judging.

Let’s start by defining the word.

κρίνω (*krinō*) verb.—

1. **Decide**, come to a conclusion.
2. **Prefer**, to judge one thing better than another.
3. **Evaluate**, judge based on correctness of something.
4. **Hold a view**, have an opinion.
5. **Make legal decision** decide a legal question of right/wrong.
6. **Condemn**, judge as guilty.
7. **Rule** over people, govern.

So, we learn from the definition that all judging can’t be wrong, or we could never (1) reach proper conclusions (Acts 16:15). (2) Decide one course of action over another, thus every action would be equal in value and consequences. (3) Practice right conduct over wrong conduct (Hebrews 5:17; Acts 8:20-23) (4) Practice church discipline of any kind (2 Thessalonians 3:6).

1. The Good.

Judging done by God’s people with the right standard and proper motives.



It seems to me, from the definition above, the one that gives people the most concern is #6 (judge as guilty). But if we are truly guilty, should it matter to us that someone points it out to us? Especially if that person is doing what Jesus would have them do and is *“speaking the truth in love.”* (Ephesians 4:15).

The problem many have when they hear words that convict them is— they don't like being told they are wrong or living in sin! But we should want correction to be right with God! (Proverbs 9:8). Jesus said in Revelation 3:19, *“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”*

If we are following our Master's example in warning and correcting others in regard to sin (See Matthew 23 also). John the Baptist rebuked Herod in Matthew 14:3-4, *“For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. ⁴ Because John had said to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.”* For this rebuke, John lost his life

(Matthew 14:5-12). John's motives were pure and he had the right standard for this in what judged Herod— God's word.

The right standard is the word of God only. Notice what Paul says about the Scriptures in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* Note in verse 16, the reproof and correction part that requires some sense of judging in the Scriptures what is wrong and correcting it.

The same is true with the work of overseers in *“holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. ¹⁰ For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹ whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. ¹² One of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,”* (Titus 1:9-13)

Ultimately, it is not the one saying the rebuke or judging in the matter of sin that condemns— but it is the word of God that judges us. If we are honest, we should want to correct any error and sin in our lives this side of the Judgement Day! Salvation is the only real motive for correction.

This is why Paul said what he said in 1 Corinthians 5:3-5 concerning the man who took his father's wife, *“For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. ⁴ In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁵ deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”* Thankfully, this man did repent! (2 Corinthians 2:3-8).

2. The Bad.

Judging done by God's people with the wrong standard and bad motives.

To judge others by our own standard of what we think is right, by our opinions only, or by the standard of what others are doing instead of God's word— is wrong to do! Only God's word is the measuring stick to gauge truth from error (1 Corinthians 4:6).

Along this line, Paul said to the Corinthians, *“For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”* (2 Corinthians 10:12)

The Bible tells us not to judge before we have all the facts, as that could definitely distort any proper judgement. *“He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.”* (Proverbs 18:13).

Many bad judgements have been made out of partiality to those judged.

Two Scriptures— *“It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, Or to overthrow the righteous in judgment.”* (Proverbs 18:5). *“These things also belong to the wise: It is not good to show partiality in judgment.”* (Proverbs 24:23). (See also John 7:24).

And then there are the impure motives of revenge, politics, and gaining an advantage over someone in some personal and selfish way. James tells us, *“For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”* (James 2:13). We must remember God knows our hearts. (Hebrews 4:12-13)

3. The Ugly.

Judging done by the world with extreme prejudice and selfish motives.

The world we live in can be very cruel and unloving in the way it deals with others. One moment the world loves, and then just as soon turns on itself with full malice!

It often judges others harshly based on their appearance... whether they stay beautiful (according to its standards), don't gain any weight, don't have glasses, doesn't grow old, or stays in what is the trends of fashions in the world. In short, the world is very fickle and judgmental about appearance and those who don't conform are often mocked and belittled. The world regularly mocks the the poor, the handicapped, the less fortunate, and the Christians they hate (John 15:18-19).

Basically, the world is unmerciful and unloving in the way it treats others. But the Bible teaches us a better way! (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

“The Gender Identity Confusion”

I. What The Bible Teaches On Gender Identity.

A. Gender Equality In Salvation.

- 1. Genesis 1:24-28.** “*Man*” in verse 26 is translated “*mankind*” (LEB, NET, NIV, NIVSV)
- 2. Galatians 3:26-28.**
- The Bible elevates the position of women:
 - **1 Peter 3:7**, “...and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life,”
 - Eve **Genesis 3:20.**
 - Mary **Acts 1:14.**
 - **Matthew 26:1-13.**
 - **Matthew 28:1-8.**
 - Jesus interacted with women **John 4:27.**

B. Gender Binary At Birth.

- Only 2 Choices- Male or Female. (Binary)
- Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7-8; Genesis 4:1-2.**
- There is no option X.

C. Gender Distinction In Roles.

- Genesis 3:16-19; Ephesians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 11:3.**
- 1 Corinthians 11:14-15; Deuteronomy 22:5; Romans 1:26-27.**
- The Need to Embrace Our Roles- **1 Kings 2:2; Titus 2:4-5.**

III. Why The Gender Identity Confusion?

- A. LGBTQ agenda to redefine Gender Identity; Attempt to Justify sin.
- B. Gender Identity Versus Gender Sex; Blurs the line between the Sexes.
- C. “I’m a woman trapped in a man’s body.” (Vice versa); Bruce Jenner.
- D. The technology to perform sex change operations.
- E. What will this do to the world we live in?
 1. Sports? 2. Bathrooms? Marriage? Bible Translations? The Church?
- F. Exactly what the devil wants- **John 10:10; 2 Corinthians 2:11.**
- G. May very well bring persecution for standing for the truth! **2 Tim. 3:1-4.**

IV. The Christian’s Reaction To This Issue.

- Know The Truth- **John 8:31-32.**
- Stand for the Truth- **Proverbs 23:23; Jude 1:3.**
- Speak it in Love- **Ephesians 4:15.**

“Wise And Foolish Builders”

Lesson Text: **Matthew 7:24-27.**

- (1) Both heard Jesus’ Sayings.
- (2) Both Had Opportunity & Ability to Keep Them.
- (3) Keeping Jesus’ Words is How We Build Wisely.
- (4) Failure to Keep Jesus’ Words is How We Build Foolishly.
- (5) Only the Right Foundation Will Survive the Storm.

A. Wise Building:

1. **1 Corinthians 3:9-11 – Ephesians 2:19-22.**
2. **Psalm 127:1.**
3. **Genesis 6:14-20; Hebrews 8:5.**
4. **Deuteronomy 4:2; Colossians 3:17; Matthew 4:4.**
5. **Acts 20:32 – 2 Timothy 3:16-17.**

B. Foolish Building:

1. **Genesis 11:1-9.**
2. **Joshua 6:26 – 1 Kings 16:34.**
3. **2 Samuel 7:1-13.**
4. **Ezekiel 13:1-16; 22:30.**
5. **Luke 14:25-30.**
6. **Matthew 17:1-5 (Luke 9:33).**

B. Modern Day Foolish Builders:

1. Starting Our Own Kind of Church- **Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28-30.**
2. The Doctrines, Creeds, And Dogmas of Men- **Matt.15:9; Rom.16:17-18.**
3. Any Perverted Gospel Of Change- **Galatians 1:6-9.**
4. Humanism, Atheism, And Agnosticism- **Luke 12:16-21.**
5. Hedonism or the Pleasures of Sin- **2 Timothy 3:1-4; Revelation 21:8.**
6. Rejecting Jesus- **Acts 4:10-12.**

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Steve Switcher, Roy Robinson, Danny Cottrell (Dan's Dad). Tim Harris Sr. and Anita Harris.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Paul Busby
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "The Gender Identity Confusion"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Jerry Kennemur
1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
Page 12, Question #12

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Tim Harris Jr.
Matthew 7:24-27
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Brian Meade
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "Wise And Foolish Builders"
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

April :

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
The Book of Proverbs (Mike Willis)
Page 11, Question #1 (Matching)
Invitation: Dan Cottrell
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Closing Prayer: Brian Meade



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