

Myth Buster

Are We To Judge Others?

The Wrong Way

- **Matthew 7:1-5**
 - Context - Hypocrisy: Willing to condemn another, but unwilling to face one's own personal sin
 - Out of Context - v.1
- **James 4:1-17**
 - Context - Pride, Envy, Strife: Condemning the motives of another because they have obtained material things and status, which others desire.
 - Out of Context - v.12
- **Romans 14:1-23**
 - Context - Doctrine: Condemning non-essential Christian beliefs, based on perceived religious duty.
 - Out of Context - v. 4, 12-13, 22

The Right Way

- **James 5:13-20** (*see also Galatians 6:1-2*)
 - Context: Each Christian is accountable to the Body of Christ
 - Command: v.16 Confess; v.19-20 Convert
 - **1 Corinthians 5:1-13**
 - Context: Sin is not to be tolerated
 - Command: v. 7, 11, 13 To shun the unrepentant
 - **Galatians 2:1-21**
 - Context: Injustice and favoritism is ungodly
 - Command: v.6 Treat Equally; v.11, 14 Confront injustice
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- **Judging false teachers/prophets:** 2 Peter 2:1-22; Jude 1-25
 - **Judging spirits/truth:** 1 John 4:1-8; 1 Corinthians 14:29-33
 - **Judging faith of others:** 1 John 2:1-29; John 15:1-14

How to handle personal hurts, disputes, and discipline within the Body of Christ:

Matthew 18:15-17; Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 17:1-10; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Corinthians 2:3-11
The purpose of judging is to help another focus on the holiness of God, and their need to remain humble, repentful, and honest before the Lord.

The Christian is to always speak the truth; but they are always to do so in love.

There are 3 principles that should govern the believer as they seek to correct an error:

1. There are no perfect Christians; so perfection is not needed in your personal life, before you can help another. All that is needed on your part is honesty about your own spiritual condition, and a desire to help another according to God's holy Word.
2. A willingness to stand for what is right in the face of injustice.
3. We are to show forth compassion and gentleness, as we seek to provide spiritual direction for the one out of the way. Christ died for the purpose reconciling us back to God the Father; we are to seek reconciliation for the wayward also.