

PEOPLE TELL ME,
**“JUDGE NOT
LEST YE BE JUDGED.”**

I ALWAYS TELL THEM,
**“TWIST NOT
SCRIPTURE LEST YE
BE LIKE SATAN.”**

Do not judge, and you will not be judged.
Do not condemn, and you will not be
condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.
(Luke 6:37)

Do not judge or you too will be judged. In the
same way you judge others, you will be
judged and with the measure you use, it will
be measured to you. *(Mt. 7:1-2)*

A close-up photograph of a wooden gavel, a symbol of law and justice. The gavel is made of dark, polished wood and features a long handle and a head with several rounded, tiered sections. The text "CONDEMNATION vs. TOLERATION" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

CONDEMNATION vs. TOLERATION

Judgment – decision regarding **my own life.**

Judgment – conclusion regarding the
action/attitude/motive **of someone else.**

* based on preference, opinion,
information, experience, etc.

The necessity of making judgments
is **inherent** in human life.

NT exhortations to Christians:

- **recognize** false prophets
- **confront** sinful behavior
- **avoid** divisive individuals
- **expose** works of darkness
- **reject** compromising partnerships
- Etc.

All of these involve relationships and include decisions based on one's personal understanding of good and evil. This is "judging."

The Spirit-filled Christian is **competent**
to make judgments in **circumstances**

Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not **COMPETENT** to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life? *(1 Cor. 6:2-3)*

The man without the Spirit... cannot understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things but is himself not subject to anyone's judgment.

(1 Cor. 2:14-15)

We **CANNOT** avoid judging actions/words,
etc. (*external/visible*)

We **MUST** avoid judging motives
(*internal/invisible*)

**DON'T JUDGE
SOMEONE
JUST BECAUSE
THEY SIN
DIFFERENTLY
THAN YOU.**

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**Don't judge
me until you
know me.
Don't
underestimate
me until you
challenge me.
And don't talk
about me until
you've talked
to me.**

Matthew 7:1 (etc.) is not a prohibition from making judgments (evidenced by the parallel structure of these sentences). It is a powerful teaching about relationships, about cause/effect

It is a warning about

- **reciprocity** (2) Fairness/Unfairness...
will come back to you!
- **hypocrisy** (3-5) Others deserve the same
standard you give yourself!

Jesus said (*Jn. 8:15-16*) that we judge from “human standards” (prejudice, arrogance, selfishness, etc.), but he judged according to God’s truth/will. “I stand with the Father.”

**THIS IS THE WEDGE THAT DIVIDES
RIGHT/WRONG JUDGMENTS.**

IS THIS JUDGMENTAL?

- In love, SPEAKING THE TRUTH
(Paul... Eph. 4:15)
- Neither do I condemn you. Now, leave
your LIFE OF SIN *(Jesus... John 8:11)*

Whatever the implications of “Do not judge...”, they cannot mean that the Christian must never respond to spiritual darkness with criticism or condemnation.

Jesus (*Matthew 5*) “you are **salt** to the earth... **light** to the world...”

Both salt and light are **confrontational**
and **influential**

*Neither are “observers” only but
are agents of change.