



We are saved by grace through faith alone (see **Ephesians 2:8-10**). Once we are saved and become a Christian, we are never supposed to judge anyone's motives (heart); however, we are definitely supposed to judge others (fellow believers) actions and "fruit" through love and grace. All true believers are supposed to exhibit "good fruits" after they have been saved and this is the sign to others that they are, in fact, true believers. If you know someone well and they profess to be a Christian yet never seem to demonstrate any "Fruit of the Spirit", there is possibly a problem with their salvation or their walk with the Lord. We must always ask questions and never jump to conclusions when it comes to judging others fruit.

Don't Judge the Hearts (Motives) of Others

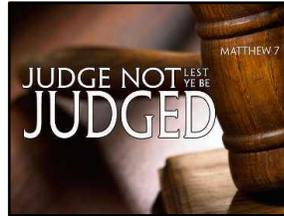
[Matthew 7:1-5] "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

We Should "Test the Fruits" of Other Believers

[Matthew 7:15-20] "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

We Should "Test the Spirit" of Other Believers

[1 John 4:1-6] Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.



Fruit of the Spirit

[Galatians 5:22-23] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

[Ephesians 5:9] (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth)

[Colossians 3:12-13] Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another (tolerance), and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

[2 Peter 1:5-8] But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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| Faithfulness | Meekness |
| Forgiveness | Merciful |
| Gentleness | Patience |
| Godliness | Peace |
| Goodness | Perseverance |
| Humility | Righteousness |
| Joy | Self-Control |
| Kindness | Tolerance |
| Knowledge | Truth |
| Love | Virtue |

Other Supporting Scriptures

- 1) We must always search and use the scripture as our basis for judging fruit like the Bereans did:
[Acts 17:11] Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.
- 2) We must test everything and hold to what is good:
[1 Thessalonians 5:21] Test all things; hold fast what is good.
- 3) We must be careful to never judge anyone based on appearance:
[John 7:24] Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.
- 4) We should never judge non-believers (those who are outside):
[1 Corinthians 5:12-13] For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "PUT AWAY FROM YOURSELVES THE EVIL PERSON."
*****REMEMBER: [Isaiah 55:8-9]** "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

