

Judging Others

We are never supposed to judge anyone's motives (heart); however, we are definitely supposed to judge others (fellow believers) actions and "fruit".

Don't judge the hearts or motives of others:

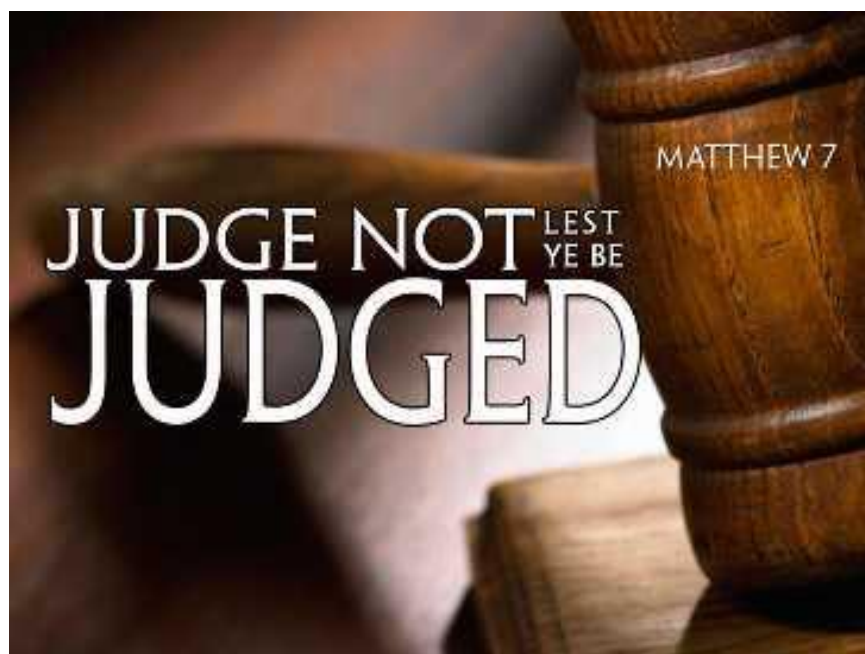
[Matthew 7:1] "Judge not, that you be not judged.

[Matthew 7:2] For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

[Matthew 7:3] And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

[Matthew 7:4] 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?

[Matthew 7:5] Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.



It is especially important to “test the spirits” (judge actions) of teachers:

[1 John 4:1] 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.

[1 John 4:2] By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

[1 John 4:3] 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.

[1 John 4:4] 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.

[1 John 4:5] They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.

[1 John 4:6] 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.



We must also test the “fruits” of other believers (especially teachers):

[Matthew 7:15] "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

[Matthew 7:16] You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

[Matthew 7:17] Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

[Matthew 7:18] A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

[Matthew 7:19] Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

[Matthew 7:20] Therefore by their fruits you will know them.



We must always search and use the scripture our basis for judging fruit:

[Acts 17:10] Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

[Acts 17:11] These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

We must test (judge) everything and try to hold to what is good:

[1 Thessalonians 5:21] Test all things; hold fast what is good.

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."



We should never judge non-believers (those who are outside):

[1 Corinthians 5:12] For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?

[1 Corinthians 5:13] But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "PUT AWAY FROM YOURSELVES THE EVIL PERSON."



Conclusion

With Respect to Believers:

- We should never judge the motives (hearts) of anyone.
- It is absolutely imperative that we judge the actions and fruits of our fellow believers (especially teachers).
- This can be difficult sometimes but it is showing love to believers.

With Respect to Non-Believers:

- We should never judge the actions (or motives) of non-believers, that is God's job.
- We should always try to show love to non-believers by giving them the Gospel when it is appropriate.