

Questions

1. Think about your last significant conflict with another believer. How did you respond to that conflict? Was there reconciliation? If so, what words or actions helped to promote that reconciliation?
2. How does our culture tend to misrepresent Matthew 7:1? Beside the verses mentioned in the sermon, are there others which require believers to make wise and discerning judgments?
3. What's an example of making a rash judgment without full information? How could that be avoided?
4. Do you ever struggle with either judging or being judged by a man-made standard that is not clearly a standard established in God's Word?
5. Can you think of a time recently when you pointed at the speck in a brother or sister's eye without first recognizing a log in your own eye?
6. Think about a common area of conflict in your life. What are some questions you can learn to ask yourself to first check if there are any logs in your eye?
7. What was the typical first-century Jewish view of dogs and pigs? How does that help to clarify what Jesus was teaching in Matthew 7:6?
8. Take some time to prayerfully reflect on the glorious treasure that the gospel of Jesus Christ is to you.

For further reading: *Judgments: Rash or Righteous* (2009) by Lou Priolo

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The King's Manifesto

The Sermon on the Mount

Learning to Judge

Matthew 7:1-6

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In this passage, Jesus taught the citizens of His kingdom to be wise in how their fellow citizens and those who are outside of His kingdom.

What Matthew 7:1 does NOT mean (cf. Matthew 7:6, 15-16; 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5).

Three examples of what sinful judging could look like:

1. **Making rash judgments without full information.**
2. **Having a judgmental or critical attitude toward others.**

3. Judging by a man-made standard that differs from God's standard.

Matthew 7:6 as a counterbalance or opposite extreme to what Jesus said in 7:1-5 about being slow and gentle with judgments made toward other believers.

Jesus' warning about the consequences of sinful judging (7:2).

Three "firsts" in the Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:24

Matthew 6:33

Matthew 7:5