



Daily Verse and Comment

Matthew 7:1

(1) "Do not condemn *others*, so that you yourself will not be condemned;

A Faithful Version

Some cite [Matthew 7:1](#) as proof that we should do no judging whatsoever: "Judge not, that you be not judged." Here, the Greek word for "judge" is *krino*, meaning to condemn, avenge, sentence, or levy a punishment. [Christ](#) plainly says that if we condemn others, we will be condemned ourselves. Dangerous territory indeed!

Though it is certainly hazardous to evaluate the problems or sins of others, the context answers the question of whether we are to do so. We **are** to judge and in every aspect of life, as other scriptures show. Christ continues His thought, in context, by showing that we **are** to evaluate the deeds of others, but to be very careful with our judgments. We should consider our weaknesses and sins very carefully, to the point of overcoming them, before we make harsh judgments on others. How can we condemn someone else when we may have even bigger problems? He instructs us to remove the hypocrisy and then we can help our brother with his difficulties.

Focusing on the Greek to show that "condemning" defines judgment better than "justice" really makes no difference. The sense of the context is proper evaluation of our own and others' conduct so that proper justice is done. If we wish to use a harsher definition, such as condemnation or damnation, then Christ is saying He will also evaluate us in that light. Major or minor infraction, light or harsh judgment, the outcome is the same: "As you do unto others, so shall it be done unto you!"

Christ's initial statement about judgment cannot be ripped out of context to stand on its own. We **must** understand it considering His whole explanation, which includes recognition of others' sins and their disposition, but only after overcoming our own faults.

Otherwise, [Matthew 7:1](#) directly contradicts [John 7:24](#) where He uses the same Greek words: "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge [*krino*] with righteous judgment." Here He says we are to judge, but He mitigates it with instruction on *how* to judge, just as in Matthew 7. Certainly, we are to analyze—judge—what is right or wrong, based on the mind of [God](#) as expressed in His Word. How we *apply* that judgment to others is critical, for Christ will take the same attitude with us that we take with others.

Like it or not, life forces us to make judgments or decisions about people every day. These may deal with mundane physical things or with friendships or marriages that affect a lifetime. Many have gone through life wishing they had been equipped early in life to render and exercise sounder judgments, for the process of making good calls can be very confusing. It is so easy to dwell on the wrong factors or see only what is on the surface.

— Staff

To learn more, see:

[**The Weightier Matters \(Part 2\): Judgment**](#)

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