

◉ WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Great in Power, This is Amazing Grace, Lion and the Lamb, You are God Alone, Mighty to Save

◉ WELCOME

We are surrounded by people who are imperfect (all of us are) and our tendency is to get irritated when they rub us the wrong way. It is much easier to judge them according to our own very strict standards rather than show them grace. In what areas do you usually judge people (e.g., appearance, decisions, etc.)?

◉ WORD

MATTHEW 7:1-6

7 "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. ²For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. ³Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. ⁶"Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

3 P's in Understanding MATTHEW 7:1-6

PRINCIPLE (1-2)

"Judge not" is one of the most popular verses in our culture because it seems to fit in with 2 of our culture's most basic assumptions: first, that religion (Faith) is private and second morality is relative. Which simply means for them - you really cannot tell me what I believe or I am doing is wrong. It is often quoted wrongly because we do not understand the context (and disregard also what is clearly commanded in other parts of the Bible.

What Jesus is NOT saying: (ref: 1 Cor 2:15; 2 Tim 4:2; Eph 4:5; Matt 18:5; Gal 6:1 etc.)

- ✗ That Christians should make no critical evaluation of others
- ✗ He cannot mean that you cannot tell someone that they are wrong, because Jesus spent his whole ministry doing that!

Matthew 7:6, tells us that we are to discern those who are dogs and who are pigs. Then in verse 13 Jesus talks about wide and the narrow road. Verses 15 and 16 continues false prophets. How can you now identify who are the dogs and the pigs, which is the narrow from the wide road? How can you identify the false and true prophets if you re not going to make judgements?

What Jesus is saying:

- **We are to stop judging other people to pull them down and bring ourselves up** (just like the Pharisees). No wonder Jesus was saying in Matthew 5:20 that unless we exceed the righteousness of these people we cannot enter the Kingdom of heaven.
- **Our Yardstick will become a boomerang. Therefore, we are to judge righteously.**
 - *Superficial* judgment is wrong. Passing judgment on someone based solely on appearances is sinful ([John 7:24](#)).
 - *Hypocritical* judgment is wrong. Jesus' command not to judge others in [Matthew 7:1](#) is preceded by comparisons to hypocrites ([Matthew 6:2, 5, 16](#))

- *Harsh, unforgiving* judgment is wrong. We are “always to be gentle toward everyone” ([Titus 3:2](#))
- *Self-righteous* judgment is wrong. We are called to humility, and “God opposes the proud” ([James 4:6](#)).
- Believers are warned against judging others unfairly or unrighteously, but Jesus commends “right judgment” ([John 7:24, ESV](#)).

PARADOX (3-5)

We often think that when we make judgement and criticize others that it is a sign of righteousness but in reality it is **hypocrisy**. It is often those who are “hypocrite-tical” that are “hyper-critical” of others. And what we do is we judge them according to our standards.

You will see what you look for! If you are looking for faults, imperfections, shortcomings from others... I can almost guarantee you that you will find it. We see this as a paradox because we see things on others (*their sins and faults*) but things in our lives are worse.

Aside from hypocrisy, Jesus addresses **Censoriousness**. It is the same reaction of David (2 Samuel 11-12) when he fell into sin over Bathsheba which led to more and more sins. When the Prophet Nathan confronted him using a parable his reaction was absurd and harsh judgementalism.

Isn't it true? Most of the time, what we want is to give a teaspoon of grace toward others yet we want an Olympic-size swimming pool for ourselves.

PRACTICE (1-2,6)

Be helpful to others, but we are to start working on ourselves (v5). We are to start confessing our sins before God then we can seek to restore others. See Psalm 51:10-13.

Be Discerning (v6). Though we are not to be hyper-critical of others, Jesus still wants us to be discerning. We are to know who are “dogs and pigs”. This is not to stop us from sharing the truth but rather, we cannot talk about Christian morality and higher truths if they do not even know the Jesus. We are to share the Gospel first! They need to have a relationship with Jesus before their lives can be changed!

Be loving. Be forgiving and always help those who have fallen to be restored.

Discussion Points:

1. **Do not Judge.** When was the last time you judged others based on your own standards “of righteousness”?
2. **I will.** Is there someone in my life that has sinned against you whom you need to confront and restore relationship with? How can Gal 6:1 help me in addressing
 The operative word there is LOVE... we are to do it in love!
 All truth and no grace — Turns people away.
 All grace and no truth — Leads to licentiousness. (Truth sets free!)
 We need BOTH GRACE AND TRUTH!
3. **Self Examination.** Is it possible that the person who have fallen and needs restoration is me?

WORKS

This week, pray more and stop judging others around you — family, friends, co-workers or leaders, etc.

Show that you care by encouraging others to listen to God's truth.

Invite someone to attend Dgroup with you, or join you for next week's Sunday service.

Share some easy to understand Bible verses to others through social media, or better still, in face-to-face conversations with others and tell them how you have applied God's Word in your own life situation.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- School and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends