

Questions to discuss with your children

Myth 3 - Christians Shouldn't Judge  
 Matt 7:1-6      LHEFC      9/5/10

Monday: What does it mean to be judgmental?

Tuesday: Is it possible to believe someone is wrong without being judgmental?

Wednesday: What are some things you have to judge every day?

Thursday: What does mercy mean?

Friday: How can mercy help us when we have to decide how to respond to someone who is doing something wrong?

Saturday: What is the most important guideline for judging others?

A Text taken out of Context can quickly become a Pretext for a Proof text to get us to believe all sort of Dumb things.

Five things we are told to judge:

1. We judge if a man is a true prophet - Matt 7:15
2. We judge sexual morality - I Cor 5:9ff
3. We judge the truth of a man's message - Gal 1:8-9
4. We judge a person's obedience - II Thes 3:14-15
5. We judge a persons fitness for leadership - I Tim 3

Five keys to judging without being judgmental:

1. Judge on the basis of mercy - Matthew 7:1
2. Judge yourself first - Matthew 7:2-5
3. Judge with an eye towards helping - Matthew 7:2-5
4. Judge according to Biblical standards -
5. Don't judge the non-believer. I Cor 5:12-13

Matthew 7:2

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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(Replace the clue with the correct letter)

# DUMB THING? SMART Christians DUMB THING? SMART Believe

## Care Group Homework

1. If you had more money, what would you change about your life?
2. Describe a possession you would like to keep if all else were lost.
3. What principles or insights from this message did you find most helpful, challenging or troubling? Why?
4. Our society seems to have embraced the idea that Christians shouldn't judge. Why do you think that is the case?  
The cult of tolerance has caused our society to reject any hard standards of right and wrong. By removing any concept of God from our social systems, we remove a sense of absolutes. Those who find absolutes in the Bible need to be silenced because it makes those who do not accept absolutes uncomfortable.
5. Do you agree with the statement: "tolerance no longer means the freedom to be wrong - it now means that everyone is right"?
6. The message mentioned five things we are told to judge. See Matthew 7:15, I Corinthians 5:9ff, Galatians 1:8-9, I Timothy 3 & II Thessalonians 3:14-15. How do these verses impact your understanding of Matthew 7:1?  
Obviously the scripture can't be telling us that we cannot judge while at the same time telling us we have to judge. The text would imply that we must be careful how we judge others.

7. Read Romans 14:1-15:7. What does this passage say about the way we are to judge one another?

Sorry about the long passage. I was looking to create discussion about how often judging is a means of seeking to enforce our own agendas and leads to harsh treatment of one another instead of acceptance. The verses from chapter 15 call us to a spirit of unity which is often broken by those who judge in such a way that it destroys peace and is the opposite of edification.

8. How can we obey Matthew 7:1 and still hold ourselves and others to biblical standards?

The secret is in the standards we use to judge by. If we are willing to be judged by the same standards we use, we will tend to avoid arbitrary, non-scriptural judgements.

9. Within the context of Matthew 7, what do you think verse 6 is telling us?

The immediate context would indicate that Jesus is speaking of who we seek to help and who we judge.

10. Do you think it is possible to judge w/o being judgmental?  
Yes. (I know, a bad question since the answer doesn't demand discussion....)