**SHOULD WE JUDGE OTHERS?**

**Matthew 7:1-6**

**THE BIG IDEA: As Christians we should ensure we are in right standing with the Lord as we seek to judge rightly.**

**SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS AFFECTS OUR ABILITY TO SEE OTHERS RIGHTLY**

* *“Do not judge, so that you won’t be judged. 2 For you will be judged by the same standard with which you judge others, and you will be measured by the same measure you use. 3 Why do you look at the splinter in your brother’s eye but don’t notice the beam of wood in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the splinter out of your eye,’ and look, there’s a beam of wood in your own eye?”* (Matthew 7:1-4)
* **We must shift from being people who magnify the sins of others while ignoring our own.**
* *“But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to His mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”* (Titus 3:4-5)
* **Being judgmental of others is the result of forgetting, or never truly understanding the depth of your own depravity and the subsequent grace and mercy you experience from God daily.**
* “The heart that has tasted the Lord’s grace and forgiveness will always be restrained in its judgment of others. It has seen itself deserving judgment and condemnation before the Lord and yet, instead of experiencing his burning anger, has tasted his infinite mercy.” -Sinclair Ferguson

**BEFORE WE ADDRESS SIN IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS WE NEED TO MAKE SURE WE ARE RIGHT WITH THE LORD**

* *“Hypocrite! First take the beam of wood out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother’s eye.”* (Matthew 7:5)
* **Taking Jesus’ words “Do not judge” as a stand-alone statement not only robs the phrase of its actual meaning, it perpetuates the false ideology that Christians should never confront others about their sin.**
* Jesus - *“Stop judging according to outward appearances; rather judge according to righteous judgment.”* (John 7:24)
* *“Brothers and sisters, if someone is overtaken in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual, restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so that you also won’t be tempted.”* (Galatians 6:1)
* *“If your brother sins against you, go tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 But if he won’t listen, take one or two others with you, so that by the testimony of two or three witnesses every fact may be established. 17 If he doesn’t pay attention to them, tell the church. If he doesn’t pay attention even to the church, let him be like a Gentile and a tax collector to you.”* (Matthew 18:15-17)
* **Christians are called to judge the actions of their fellow Christians without being judgmental hypocrites.**

**JUDGE RIGHTLY AS YOU STEWARD THE GOSPEL OF JESUS**

* **Judging actions is the task for all Christians, but judging motives is reserved for the Lord alone.**
* *“Don’t give what is holy to dogs or toss your pearls before pigs, or they will trample them under their feet, turn, and tear you to pieces.”* (Matthew7:6)
* **Not everyone will be receptive to the Truth of the gospel, and some will even attack you, so Jesus instructs you to judge rightly as you live out your faith.**

**Connect Group Discussion**

**ICE BREAKER: Have you ever been judged unfairly? Explain.**

**Understanding:**

* What does Matthew 7:1-5 teach us about God/Jesus?
* Does Jesus actually teach that we should never judge? Explain
* What is the difference between judging sinfully and church discipline? (See Matthew 18;15-17; 1 Corinthians 5)

**Digging Deeper:**

* What area(s) are you most likely to be judgmental of others? (i.e. Finances, work, health, spiritual, parenting, marriage, etc.)
* Why would you not want to be judged with the standard you judge others (Matthew 7:2)?
* Why should you be patient and humble toward others?
* Do you typically give more attention to the sins of others than your own? If so, how can you correct that?
* Does Social Media increase or decrease your temptation to judge others? How can you combat that?

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?