

IS IT WRONG TO JUDGE OTHERS?

Matt 7:1-5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Many people believe all religious controversy is wrong
 - 1. Must contend Jude 3
 - 2. Must fight 1Tim 6:12
- B. Example of Christ and the apostles
 - 1. Christ Matt 22:15-46 (four discussions)
 - 2. Acts is filled with records of controversy - Stephen Acts 6 & 7 Paul in Athens Acts 17
- C. Must have the right attitude in all controversy
 - 1. Speak the truth in love Eph 4:15
 - 2. Must not strive - in meekness 2Tim 2:24,25
 - 3. Be ready with meekness and fear 1Pet 3:15
 - 4. With grace seasoned with salt Col 4:4-6
- D. Often times the door is slammed to serious discussion of what the Bible teaches by the idea "you know the Bible teaches we're not supposed to judge others."
 - 1. This idea need to be examined in the light of all that the Bible says on the subject of "judging" 2Cor 13:5; 1Thess 5:21
 - 2. In this lesson we want to examine this idea and show that it is a misunderstanding of the scriptures

DISCUSSION:

I. THE IDEA OF "NOT JUDGING OTHERS" IS BASED ON A MISUNDERSTANDING OF Matt 7:1

- A. Examine carefully the first five verses
 - 1. Christ is condemning the hypercritical, self-righteous spirit that sees the faults of others but overlooks those of self
 - 2. If "judge not" in the first part is absolute - then why wouldn't the last part "that ye be not judged" be absolute?
 - 3. Are we never going to be judged?
- B. Test this theory in the context of the entire chapter
 - 1. How do we tell the "dogs" and "swine" v.6
 - 2. How can we know the "false prophets" v.15
 - 3. The basis of judging is "by their fruits" v.16

II. THE IDEA IS SELF-CONTRADICTIONARY - SELF DEFEATING

- A. How can you judge one wrong who is judging others as wrong, if you can never judge?
 - 1. Imagine someone arguing that it is wrong to argue
 - 2. A woman teaching a man that a woman can't teach a man
- B. Notice what Paul says in Rom 2:1

- C. Those who promote this idea don't believe it
 - 1. They believe in calling a man who steals, a thief
 - 2. Their preachers preach against sin

III. THIS IDEA OVERLOOKS OTHER SCRIPTURES WHERE JUDGING IS COMMANDED

- A. Judge righteous judgment Jhn 7:24
 - 1. More than one kind - one is commanded - other is condemned
 - 2. Can't please God without righteous judgment
- B. Jesus chided some because they would not judge what was right Lk 12:54-57

IV. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT CHRISTIANS MUST CONTINUALLY MAKE JUDGMENTS IN THIS LIFE

- A. Notice 1Cor 2:15,16
 - 1. Must judge all things
 - 2. Have the mind of Christ as our standard vs.8-13
- B. Notice further Paul's words in Phil 1:9-11
 - 1. Love abound in judgment
 - 2. Approve all things that are excellent
- C. Another passage is 1Cor 5 & 6
 - 1. Paul judged in the matter of fornication 5:3
 - 2. We are to judge in matters between brethren 6:5

V. IF IDEA "YOU CAN'T JUDGE OTHERS" IS RIGHT:

- A. We must quit preaching the gospel - telling people they are wrong
- B. The church is condemned for doing what it was praised for doing Rev 2:2
- C. The church could never practice the discipline that Paul commanded 1Cor 5

CONCLUSION:

- A. Jesus condemned self-righteous, hypercritical treatment of others. However, he also taught us to carefully examine and make judgments based on His word
- B. Our opposition to self-righteousness must not keep us from opposing unrighteousness.
 - 1. The teachings of the Bible must be kept in proper relationship
 - 2. Bible teaching on heaven does not make void what it says about hell.
- C. Sins and errors must be pointed out, but with the right attitude.