



Get the Log Out

Matthew 7:1-5

Big Idea: Peace at home, work, with family, friends, and even enemies is not only possible but closer than you might think. These messages of hope will help you find the way to peace in the most challenging relationships.

Bottom Line: A gracious, gentle attitude can prevent and diffuse most conflicts.

Review:

Last week, we covered the fact that conflict is a perfect opportunity for you to glorify God. Respond to all conflict in a God-honoring way.

Introduction:

Today, we want to build on last week's discussion with practical steps in working through conflict that will glorify God.

When things get heated, people are naturally quick to judge the actions, attitudes, heart, and even intentions of others. Today, we're going to talk about one principle that will ensure you have the right heart from the start.

Judging is necessary, but dangerous.

"Judge not lest you be judged." Does this mean we are never to judge?

See Proverbs 8:12-21; 9:1-6; Matthew 10:16; 1 Corinthians 2:11-16.

Judging is a necessary part of life, but it can be very **dangerous**.

Truth:

Read: Matthew 7:1-5

Our natural inclination is to **ignore** our own faults and make **critical** judgments of others' faults.

In other words, we tend to look for the worst in other people.

Critical judgments come naturally.

- We tend to make negative judgments without having the proper facts.
- We also tend to make positive assessments when we shouldn't.

See 2 Timothy 4:3; 2 Corinthians 11:4; Galatians 1:6-9; 1 Samuel 16:6; Proverbs 7; Joshua 22:10-34; 1 Samuel 1:12-17; 2 Samuel 16:1-4; 19:24-30; Matthew 12:22-24; Acts 21:26-29; 2 Corinthians 10-11.

Instead of judging others critically, God wants us to judge charitably [lovingly].

Out of love for God, we must strive to believe the **best** about others **until** we have the **facts** to prove otherwise.

If you can reasonably interpret facts in two possible ways, God calls you to embrace the positive interpretation over the negative. At the very least, God would rather you postpone making any judgment at all until you can acquire conclusive facts.

This is not optional for Jesus followers (Matthew 7:12; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8)!

Most importantly, before we look at the faults of others, we must take the log out of our own eye (Matthew 7:1-5).

Application and Next Steps

- Memorize Matthew 7:1-5
- Assume the best until you have facts to prove otherwise.
- Admit your faults first.