

JUDGEMENT: PLANKS & PIGS

MATTHEW 7:1-6

The one who judges according to the word and law of the Lord, and forms his judgments by the rule of charity, always begins with subjecting himself to examination, and preserves a proper medium and order in his judgments.

-John Calvin

I. Rightly Judging Violations

II. Rightly Judging Value

Small Group Application Questions

Getting to Know You

1. Have you ever been asked to formally judge a contest or referee a game?

Into the Bible

2. Most of us have hear the phrase “Judge not lest you be judged” applied incorrectly to deflect or prevent someone being held accountable to a particular moral standard. What is the key difference between the discernment urged upon us in Philippians 1:9-10 and II Timothy 2:15, and the judgment we are told to avoid in this verse and James 4:11-12?

3. Verse 2 probably finds an echo in the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:21-35. If God is the ultimate judge (Acts 17:11), how should our judgments mirror His example of justice with mercy in Ephesians 2:1-5?

Application

4. Verses 3-5 in this passage warn us to carefully take stock of our own condition before confronting the sins of others. What makes this a necessity? Romans 3:23 What does Galatians 6:1-2 tell us about how we should correct someone properly?

5. Jesus' command in verse 6 seems counterintuitive but he gives a similar command to his disciples in Matthew 10:11-15 as he sends them out to witness. When do we decide that our Gospel message will not be accepted and move on? Isn't this spiritually giving up on someone? Can God still use the witness we have already provided? How does the parable of the sower in Luke 8:4-15 apply here?

For Families

6. Talk with your children about how God's judgment for sin results in His mercy in Christ's sacrifice for us?