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What Does the Bible Mean When It Says, DO NOT JUDGE?



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Jesus' command not to judge others could be the most widely quoted of His sayings, even though it is almost invariably quoted in complete disregard of its context. Here is Jesus' statement: "Do not judge, or you too will be judged" (Matthew 7:1). Many people use this verse in an attempt to silence their critics, interpreting Jesus' meaning as "You don't have the

right to tell me I'm wrong." Taken in isolation, Jesus' command "Do not judge" does indeed seem to preclude all negative assessments. However, there is much more to the passage than those three words.

The Bible's command that we not judge others does not mean we cannot show discernment. Immediately after Jesus says, "Do

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not judge," He says, "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs" (Matthew 7:6). A little later in the same sermon, He says, "Watch out for false prophets. . . . By their fruit you will recognize them" (verses 15-16). How are we to discern who are the "dogs" and "pigs" and "false prophets" unless we have the ability to make a judgment call on doctrines and deeds? Jesus is giving us permission to tell right from wrong.

Also, the Bible's command that we not judge others does not mean all actions are equally moral or that truth is relative. The Bible clearly teaches that truth is objective, eternal, and inseparable from God's character. Anything that contradicts the truth is a lie—but, of course, to call something a "lie" is to pass judgment. To call adultery or murder a sin is likewise to pass judgment—but it's also to agree with God. When Jesus said not to judge others, He did not mean that no one can identify sin for what it is, based on God's definition of sin.

And the Bible's command that we not judge others does not mean there should be no mechanism for dealing with sin. The Bible has a whole book entitled Judges. The judges in the Old Testament were raised up by God Himself (Judges 2:18). The modern judicial system, including its judges, is a necessary part of society. In saying, "Do not judge," Jesus was not saying, "Anything goes."

Elsewhere, Jesus gives a direct command to judge: "Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly" (John 7:24). Here we have a clue as to the right type of judgment versus the wrong type. Taking this verse and some others, we can put together a description of the sinful type of judgment:

Superficial judgment is wrong. Passing judgment on someone based solely on appearances is sinful (John 7:24). It is foolish to jump to conclusions before investigating the facts (Proverbs 18:13). Simon the Pharisee passed judgment on a woman based on her appearance and reputation, but he could not see that the woman had been forgiven; Simon thus drew Jesus' rebuke for his unrighteous judgment (Luke 7:36-50).

Hypocritical judgment is wrong. Jesus' command not to judge others in Matthew 7:1 is preceded by comparisons to hypocrites (Matthew 6:2, 5, 16) and followed by a warning against hypocrisy (Matthew 7:3-5). When we point out the sin of others while we ourselves commit the same sin, we condemn ourselves (Romans 2:1).

Harsh, unforgiving judgment is wrong. We are "always to be gentle toward everyone" (Titus 3:2). It is the merciful who will be shown mercy (Matthew 5:7), and, as Jesus warned, "In the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Matthew 7:2).

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Self-righteous judgment is wrong. We are called to humility, and "God opposes the proud" (James 4:6). The Pharisee in Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector was confident in his own righteousness and from that proud position judged the publican; however, God sees the heart and refused to forgive the Pharisee's sin (Luke 18:9-14).

Untrue judgment is wrong. The Bible clearly forbids bearing false witness (Proverbs 19:5). "Slander no one" (Titus 3:2).

Christians are often accused of "judging" or intolerance when they speak out against sin. But opposing sin is not wrong. Holding aloft the standard of righteousness naturally defines unrighteousness and draws the slings and arrows of those who choose sin over godliness. John the Baptist incurred the ire of Herodias when he spoke out against her adultery with Herod (Mark 6:18-19). She eventually silenced John, but she could not silence the truth (Isaiah 40:8).

Believers are warned against judging others unfairly or unrighteously, but Jesus commends "right judgment" (John 7:24, ESV). We are to be discerning (Colossians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:21). We are to preach the whole counsel of God, including the Bible's teaching on sin (Acts 20:27; 2 Timothy 4:2). We are to gently confront erring brothers or sisters in Christ (Galatians 6:1). We are to practice church discipline (Matthew 18:15-17). We are to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). 

Life Group Splash Featuring **Sisters-in-Christ LG**



Tell us about Sisters-in-Christ.

Sisters-in-Christ (SIC) is headed by Pearly and Grace. We are an LG of 28 sisters in our 30s to 70s, and comprise of those who are single and married, mothers and grandmothers. We meet every Saturday from 10am to 12pm, via Zoom. Prior to MCO, we met at the Transit Lounge in FBC.

Describe Sisters-in-Christ using 3 words.

STUDY - To grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

SUPPORT- To care, love, and pray for one another.

SERVE - To serve together in the community (Social Concern Ministry).

What is it like to be part of Sisters-in-Christ?

Being part of a Life Group means we can be connected, especially during such a time as this. It provides us with a sense of belonging, knowing that we are loved, cared, and prayed for. SIC is a safe platform where we can share our needs and problems. It is comforting to know we are not alone in our struggles and journey in life.

The sisterhood here is very encouraging. Our study of God's word and fellowship draws us closer to one another as we share our joys and sorrows.

Physical fellowship, whenever possible, over a meal is always filled with lots of laughter and fun!

This year, we rejoiced with Sheena when she passed her final review in her PhD studies on 26 August. We also mourned with Floreen on the sudden passing of her beloved husband, brother Don, on 28 August. We truly experience Romans 12:15, which says: "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

Share some of the ways that Sisters-in-Christ has grown.

- Together, we have developed a deeper relationship with God. We have learned to enjoy His presence by spending more time reading His word and in prayer.
- We have grown in the knowledge of God's word, are transformed in our character, and have increased discernment in our speech and actions.
- We have become more sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and guidance in our lives.
- We are able to walk more obediently with the Lord.

What awesome memorable Life Group events this year?

On 1 May, SIC had a special session on the "Basic Overview in the Making of Home Video" which was conducted by Carol Kwon. She taught us, step-by-step, how to make home videos. (We always look forward to the times when Carol leads us in worship with her beautiful videos!)

On 2 August, we were blessed to be able to participate in the FBC Social Concern's first Grocery Outreach to 14 Burmese families. Jacie and Carrine volunteered for purchasing, Bridget and Sook Han volunteered for packing, Corinne volunteered for preparation of food, and the rest of us joined in the prayer chain for the day.

Since then, we have adopted one Burmese family of 5 and two single Burmese ladies. As a start, we prepared cards for the family and the 2 ladies, with prayers written on the cards for each day of the week. We also gave them some small gifts.

Corinne and few of our sisters are also serving in the Soup Kitchen every Wednesday. It is our joy and delight to be able to serve the Lord together as an LG!



What would Sisters-in-Christ say to someone who is not yet part of a Life Group? Come and be part of a small family. Stay connected to the body of Christ and be blessed. You will be amazed at what joy and delight you will experience!

Hebrews 10:25 says, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching." [©]



Join A Life Group Today!

| Pulpit Program

November 7, 2021
Parable of the Weeds
(Matthew 13:24-43)



PREACHER
Alex Tan

November 14, 2021
Parables of the Kingdom
(Matthew 13:44-58)



PREACHER
John Lee

November 21, 2021
**John the Baptist and
the Witness of the Gospel**
(Matthew 14:1-12)



PREACHER
Dr Peter Ng

November 28, 2021
Feeding the 5000
(Matthew 14:13-21)



PREACHER
Pastor Joash Chan

| Worship with Us

 **MAIN SERVICE**
| ZOOM |
Sundays 8:45am & 11:15am

 **YOUTH SERVICE**
| ZOOM |
Sundays 9:00am

 **SUNDAY SCHOOL**
for Ages 0-12yrs
| ZOOM |
Sundays

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PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

Living in Truth



1. Dear Lord, all Your words are true and all your righteous laws are eternal. You are the way, the truth, and the life.
2. We praise You for revealing to us the message of truth, the gospel of Your salvation. Thank you that You have marked us with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.
3. Protect and guide our steps with Your word as a lamp. Give us the faith to live by Your truth. Give us the wisdom to discern truth from falsehood.
4. Help us to love with actions and in truth. Help us to speak the truth in love. Make us beacons of light as we live out Your truth in this world.
5. Where there is truth, there is hope and life. Help us to see that Your truth sets us free. Amen.

| Upcoming Events



SPECIAL MEETING
FBC (ROS) AGM Meeting Zoom Online
21 November 2021 (Sunday)
2.15pm

Zoom ID: 992 7605 6605
Password: FBCPJAGM
[CLICK HERE](#) to refer to the meeting agenda. Do take note that FBCPJ audited accounts will be made available for collection two weeks before meeting.



VBS Registration Is Open

Our very first Online VBS is happening on Zoom from 13 to 17 December 2021!
For children aged 4 to 12 years.
[CLICK HERE](#) to register.
For enquiries, please email vbsfbcsubang@gmail.com



GAMMA 18
Romans
From Wretchedness To Righteousness
Every Wednesday
For more information, contact Church Office at 03-5621 2623



ALPHA 21
Is There More to Life Than This?
Alpha 21 will begin on 6 January 2022.
Every Thursday 8:00pm
[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the next Alpha program.



BETA
Laying the Foundation of Christian Walk
Every Thursday 8:00pm to 9:45pm
For more information, contact Lammy Tan (012-386 8460) or John Tay (012-212 3099)



MONTHLY ZOOM PRAYER MEETING
Monthly Prayer Meeting
27 November 2021 (Saturday)
2:00pm to 3:30pm
Zoom ID: 869 8003 5137
Password: pray



DAILY ZOOM PRAYER MEETING
Daily Prayer Meeting
Every Saturday to Thursday 9:00pm
Zoom ID: 929 735 694
Password: pray

More Information on Upcoming Events