

Sovereign Grace Church

“Judging Others” outline

October 14, 2018

Matthew 7: 1-6

“Judge not lest ye be judged” is one of the more recognized commands of Jesus. It seems to be used by many people to protect themselves from moral criticism. “You shouldn't be sleeping with that woman's husband” is followed by “why are you judging me?” I guess the common element here is that no one wants to be judged!

But few people really bother themselves to ask what Jesus means by “judging” in this passage. It is ambiguous enough to be twisted to mean whatever one needs it to mean. But what was Jesus' purpose? Surely He didn't mean that we shouldn't seek to recognize good and bad behavior....elsewise how would “judging” in this sense be recognized as bad behavior?! The problem with resisting being judged by Aunt Martha is that my recognition of Aunt Martha's judging attitude is itself a judgment! So....what does Jesus mean here? Should we judge? Should we receive judgment? What does it mean to judge?

Judgmental attitudes are indeed a plague in today's church.....but without the act of discerning a judging attitude how can the plague be resisted?! We will make an effort to sort this out in today's sermon.

1. Judging as Condemning vv 1-2

- **Condemnation as a Weapon**

- **Counter-condemnation**
Prov. 9:8

- **The “Plank” in our eye vv. 3-5**

- **Kingdom Mentality in Correction**
Gal. 6: 1-2

2. Judging as Discerning

- **Discernment**

- **The Problem: Discernment slipping into Condemnation**

- **What is a human being?**

3. Pearls, Pigs, Bible's and Dogs v. 6

- **Interpretations**
Matt. 10:14

- **Problem of pushing our good solutions on dogs and pigs!**

A Concluding Thought Experiment

Acts 9: 26-28

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. When was the last time you were accused of being judgmental? Were you? If you weren't...why did the other person think you were?!**
- 2. When is the last time you felt you were being judged by someone else? Were you? If you were, did it bother you? Why? How did you respond to the person? Was your response itself a judgment against them?**
- 3. Is it possible to know you are judged without judging? How do the two definitions of judging as “condemnation” and judging as “discerning” help make sense of a positive response to this question?**
- 4. Should it bother us to be condemned by another human being? How can we suffer condemnation from our neighbor and bless them in response?**
- 5. Have you ever given good advice and had it rejected? Why do you think it was rejected? Do you think that giving good books to people you know will disagree with them is a good practice? Why did you give it? What then should be our response in our desire to see bad people become good and good people be made better? How can we influence people without controlling them?**