



“Judge not,
lest ye be judged.”
Pastor Steve / June 3, 2018
Matthew 7:1-6

1. What Jesus didn't mean when he said, “judge not”
 - To abandon our **critical** faculties
 - To avoid all **confrontation** of sin or evil
 - To be **squishy** about God's word
2. What Jesus did mean when he said, “judge not”
 - To resist being **hypercritical**
 - To avoid **condemning** others
 - To refuse to **take delight** in another person's failures
3. Signs that we have moved from discernment into condemnation:
 - Casting judgment, even when it is no concern of ours
 - Putting prejudice or personality ahead of **principle**
 - Casting judgment even when I don't know **the facts**
 - Casting judgment without taking the **circumstances** into account
 - Pronouncing final judgment upon a person as such
4. Why must we resist judging?
 - Lest we be judged by **others**
 - Lest we be judged **by God** (divine passive)
5. A parable about judgment—the beam and the speck.
 - We have a tendency to see faults in **others** before we see them in ourselves.

- We often try **to correct** someone else without changing our own **behavior**.
- We must allow **God** to remove the offending beam.

6. What about the dogs?
 - Jesus clearly does not intend that we avoid preaching to unbelievers.
 - Jesus could be using instructive **irony**. If so, his meaning is the **opposite** of the literal words.
 - A call for discernment—we must not try to force our message upon those who show no inclination to accept it.
 - We respect the **message** so deeply that we are willing to lose the respect of **detractors**.

Applications:

- Allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart. How have you made judgments about a person or persons in the last few days? Did you stay on the side of discernment? Did you fall into a condemning attitude?
- When you hear about the failure of someone you don't like, what is your response? What part of you takes delight in their sin?
- What behavior would you like to see changed in someone close to you? What behavior of your own does God want to change first?