

**GROWING A
BIG
HEART**

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Introduction

¹ Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

³ “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

MATTHEW 7:1-5 (NIV)



Introduction

⁴ How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

MATTHEW 7:1-5 (NIV)



Related

Why are some Christians the most self righteous judgmental people?

because they are spiritually weak and use religion as a crutch to justify their own sense of self worth

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Why are Christians so judgmental?

[Redacted Name]

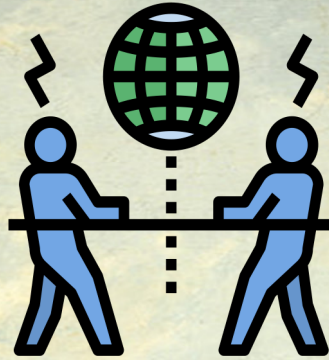
Originally Answered: Why are Christians so judgmental?

Although I think all people are judgmental to an extent, I do agree that Christians seem to have cornered the market. Many people may be in denial about this, but in my opinion it's a justified perception of Christians.

I think a lot of it has to do with how Christianity was distorted centuries ago...for an example....the Spanish Inquisitions. People were accused, judged and punished by Christians for whatever they happened to deem against God. Flash forward to the time of the New World....priests and missionaries were sent here to America to save the "savages" from their demonic and heathen religions. Many Natives were tortured into converting...and so many were killed at the hands of the Christian priests. Our nation was settled by people who were fleeing England's judgment on certain religions. These Christians wanted freedom of religion, but the fact that it was mainly Christians who initially came here, they had great influence over what religion everyone would practice. It was these Christians who carried out the witch hunts in Salem. Fast forward to my granma's day....she came from a family of



Introduction



How do we authentically live out the spiritual and moral truths of our faith and lovingly embrace and respect people from different cultures, backgrounds and worldviews?



Road Map

- ❖ **Two clarifications** on what Matthew 7 does not say
- ❖ **Three reasons** why we should refrain from judgment (or condemnation)
- ❖ **Four suggestions** to grow as a community with a big heart

The background features a textured, light beige surface. In the center, there is a large, vibrant, abstract shape resembling a paint splatter or a globe. This shape is composed of various colors including deep blue, bright green, yellow, and teal, with visible brushstrokes and splatters radiating outwards. A dark teal banner with a slight 3D effect is positioned horizontally across the middle of this colorful shape.

Two Clarifications

Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

MATTHEW 7:1 (NIV)

**Let him who is without sin among you be the
first to throw a stone at her.**

JOHN 8:7 (ESV)



“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”

MATTHEW 7:15-20 (ESV)



Two Clarifications

- **Jesus was clearly not telling us not to make any judgements at all.**
- **Greek word for “judge” is “krino”.**
- **It can mean to separate or distinguish (i.e. discern).**
- **It can also mean to condemn.**



Two Clarifications

- **To condemn is to express in very strong terms that someone / something is bad or wrong; or to inflict punishment.**
- **Condemnation is a harsh and definite pronouncement on someone that leaves them with little or no room for restoration.**



Two Clarifications

- **Matthew 7:1 is also often misquoted to support moral relativism.**
- **Moral relativism is the idea that there are no absolute or universal truths, so there is no yardstick or absolute standards by which we can judge any behaviour.**



Two Clarifications

- **In Matthew 7, Jesus did not caution us against judgments because there is no truth by which we can make judgments.**
- **Sometimes, we may disagree on what is right or true.**



Two Clarifications

- **But the fact that we disagree does not mean that truth does not exist. It just means that we cannot be sure what it is.**

The background features a large, vibrant paint splatter in shades of blue, green, and yellow, set against a light, textured background. A teal banner with a ribbon-like edge is positioned horizontally across the center, containing the text "Three Reasons" in a bold, purple font with a white outline.

Three Reasons



Three Reasons

❖ **Hypocrisy**

- **Hypocrisy is pretense.**

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?

MATTHEW 7:3-4 (NIV)





Three Reasons

❖ Hypocrisy

- **Jesus used this exaggeration to illustrate how ridiculous it is when we adopt double standards.**
- **Adopting double standards is like having this plank in our eyes, it blocks our vision so we cannot even see that we are acting inconsistently.**



Three Reasons

- **Hypocrisy**

- **The person we are judging only has a speck in his/her eye – so they can see more clearly.**



Three Reasons

❖ **Pride**

- **The gist of hypocrisy is pretense and inconsistency but pride is essentially a sense of superiority.**
- **Sometimes we may feel very justified to judge others for their wrongdoing because we are so sure we are not guilty of these sins.**



Three Reasons

❖ **Pride**

- **Prideful judgment is deeply hurtful because it involves not only self-elevation but deliberate lowering of the person being judged.**



Three Reasons

❖ **Pride**

- **Contempt, thinking lowly of others, is at the heart of pride, and contempt is often expressed in our judgment of others.**

**Why do you pass judgment on your brother?
Or you, **why do you despise your brother?****

ROMANS 14:10 (ESV)





Three Reasons

❖ Ignorance

- We do not know enough to judge (condemn).
- The plank in my eye does not just blind me from my own sins and shortfalls, it also blocks my vision to almost everything else!



Three Reasons

❖ Ignorance

- **Each of us has very limited insight into the inner thoughts and motivations of others.**
- **So it is often unsafe and unfair to judge or condemn based only on superficial observations.**

The background of the image is an abstract composition. It features a large, textured globe in the upper right quadrant, rendered in shades of blue, green, and yellow. The globe is surrounded by numerous paint splatters and brushstrokes in various colors, including deep blue, bright green, and pale yellow. The overall effect is dynamic and artistic, suggesting a global or environmental theme.

THE BENTLEY INCIDENT

**Businessman falsely accused of
being Bentley driver involved in
school scuffle files police report**

The image features a background of a cloudy sky and a body of water at the bottom. In the center, there is a large, abstract splash of paint in various shades of blue, green, and yellow. Overlaid on this splash is a dark teal banner with a ribbon-like shape at its ends. The banner contains the text "Four Suggestions" in a bold, purple, sans-serif font with a white outline.

Four Suggestions



Four Suggestions

How can we, as Christians, uphold what is true and good in a loving, non-condemning way?

How can we build a community that is warm, non-judgmental but lives in a way that reflects God's goodness and holiness?

1. Eliminate Condemnation

- **Condemnation achieves nothing.**
- **Condemnation is hurtful and it destroys relationships.**



1. Eliminate Condemnation

- **We are quick to condemn because it seems like the most direct or efficient way for us to gain control of a situation.**
- **We use condemnation to control or manipulate an outcome.**



The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴ they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” ⁶ **This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him.** Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

JOHN 8:3-11 (ESV)

7 And as they continued to ask Him, He stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 And once more He bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before Him. 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, **“Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”**

JOHN 8:3-11 (ESV)

1. Eliminate Condemnation

- **Jesus did not believe in using condemnation to correct behaviour.**
- **If we want to build a community where people can learn and recover from their mistakes, we need to eliminate condemnation.**



2. Focus on Restoration

- **Refusing to condemn does not mean we condone wrong behaviour.**
- **But it is a fine line between correction and condemnation.**



**Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate
you; reprove a wise man, and he
will love you.**

PROVERBS 9:8 (ESV)



Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

GALATIANS 6:1 (ESV)



2. Focus on Restoration

- **Correction is gentle.**
- **It must be ministered with sensitivity to the pain of the person being corrected.**
- **Gentleness goes beyond mild manners to encompass kindness.**



2. Focus on Restoration

- **Correction is other-centred, while condemnation is self-centred.**
- **Correction is accompanied by humility.**



**Keep watch for yourself, lest you
too be tempted.**

GALATIANS 6:1



3. Remove the Plank



**“You hypocrite, first take the plank out of
your own eye, and then you will see clearly
to remove the speck from your
brother’s eye.”**

MATTHEW 7:5 (NIV)



3. Remove the Plank

- **We remove the plank from our eyes so that we can see clearly, and only then can we be of any help to anyone.**



3. Remove the Plank

- **If we are serious about growing as a community with big hearts, we need to continually check how we see the people around us.**



3. Remove the Plank

1) Jesus does not define individuals by their “sins” :

- **John 8 - Woman caught in adultery**
 - **Jesus refused to condemn.**
 - **He acknowledged the wrong of adultery but did not focus on it.**



3. Remove the Plank

2) Luke 7:36-50

- **Unnamed woman (a “sinner”) who anointed Jesus’s feet with tears and hair :**
 - **Jesus praised her for her love and forgave her sins.**



3. Remove the Plank

3) John 4:7-39

- Samaritan woman by the well
 - Jesus revealed his knowledge about her but she did not feel condemned.



Many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony, "*He told me all that I ever did.*"

JOHN 4:39 (ESV)



3. Remove the Plank

- **The people around Jesus only saw a sinner, but Jesus saw a person with needs.**
- **A need to be accepted, forgiven, to heal and to move on.**
- **He focused on addressing the person and her needs, rather than her sin.**



- **Jesus was not so concerned to “fix” the sinner.**
- **His priority was to invite them into the kingdom of God, and then let the sin fix itself.**
- **When we remove the planks from our eyes, our focus will shift from the speck in the eye to the person before us.**



4. Remain in Fellowship

- **Extend fellowship to those different from us, even those whose lifestyles may cause us to be uncomfortable.**



I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people — ¹⁰ not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. ¹¹ But now I am writing to you that **you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.**

1 CORINTHIANS 5:9-11 (NIV)



4. Remain in Fellowship

- **Context was church discipline.**
- **Paul was referring to those who claim to be Christians.**
- **Those who have committed very serious sins (incest), were unrepentant and likely to have destructive, corrupting influences on others**



4. Remain in Fellowship

- **Stay in fellowship.**
- **Find common grounds.**
- **Ask questions to gain understanding.**



4. Remain in Fellowship

**Staying in fellowship allows us
to bring Jesus into the relationship,
into the lives of the people
we love and care about.**





Conculsion