Am I Judgy?

1. Is judging others \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

# What Do You Mean by Judge?

1. Vocalized \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ = judgement = bad.
2. One sense of the word judge is, “to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”.
* The ability to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ right from wrong and truth from error.
1. Another sense is, “to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”.
* To pass a final \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
1. People also use the word as a catch-all for any type of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ disapproval.

# When it’s Right . . . When it’s Wrong

1. The words that have led to misunderstanding are Matt. \_\_:\_\_
2. Jesus isn’t saying to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ judge.
3. We must be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to judge – examining \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ first.

# Judge the Action

1. Jesus’ words in Matthew 7 are speaking about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus never instructed us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ another person.
3. When we speak the truth about sin, avoid \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

	1. We aren’t claiming to be the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of moral law.
	2. We aren’t claiming to be a moral \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	3. We aren’t claiming to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than others.
4. Scripture cautions us not to judge others’ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* 1 Sam. 16:7
* Psalms 44:21
* 1 Cor. 4:5
* Hebrews 4:12
1. Focus on judging \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 12:33)

# Be Motivated by Love

1. Our own motives are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Help bring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not shame. (Matt. 18:15-17)
3. Speaking the truth is about loving \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

# Judging Doctrine

1. There’s an underlying perception that Christians should not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ other Christians. That itelf is a judgement – which the Bible does not support.
* Eph. 4:11-15
* 2 Tim. 4:2-4
1. We must carefully guard the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God has given us.
2. Discern truth from error because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ abounds. (1 John 4:1-3)
3. Poor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leads people away from God. (1 Tim 4:16)

# Key Points

1. Jesus’s famous words “Do not judge, or you too will be judged” are a prelude to his warning about hypocritical judgment, not all judgment.
2. While Jesus instructed us to carefully call out sin (discerning between right and wrong), he never instructed us to condemn another. Only God has the authority to pass a final sentence on a person’s life.
3. When addressing sin, we should be motivated by love for the other person, seeking to help bring repentance.
4. Christians must also judge between right and wrong doctrine because falsehoods abound and poor doctrine can lead people away from God.

How do we talk to our Kids about this?

Opener

* Eighty-seven percent of young non-Christians say that Christianity is “judgmental.” What do you think they mean by that?
	+ (*With younger kids, instead ask if they’ve heard someone say, “Don’t judge me!” and what they think that means.)*

Going Further

* Read Matthew 7:1–5. What is Jesus saying about when we should and shouldn’t judge others?
	+ (*Jesus is warning against hypocritical judgment, but people often stop reading after Matthew 7:1 and think we should never judge at all.)*
* Read James 4:11–12. How is the kind of judgment God has the right to make different from the kind of judgment Jesus told us to make in Matthew 7:1–5?
	+ (*Only God has the authority to pass a final judgment on a person’s life. We are not to condemn people in this way.)*
* Imagine that you have a Christian friend who is bullying another kid. Based on the verses we’ve read, what would be a biblical way of addressing their actions with them, and what would be an unbiblical way?
	+ (*Biblical: Make sure you’re not guilty of the same sin, confirm your understanding of the situation, pull the friend aside privately, and share that what they’re doing is not right for a Christian. Unbiblical: Not say anything at all, say something in front of everyone to shame them, or tell the friend they’re going to hell.)*
* If you confronted the friend in a biblical way and they replied, “You’re a Christian! You’re not supposed to judge me!” what would you say?
	+ (*Explain how the Bible calls us to judge rightly.)*
* Now imagine that you have a Christian friend who believes something about Jesus that’s untrue according to the Bible. Do you think you should say something? Why or why not? And is saying something being “judgmental”?
	+ (*It’s judgmental in the sense of discerning between truth and error, and the Bible does call us to that kind of discernment. Read Ephesians 4:11–15; 2 Timothy 4:2–4.)*

Application

* “I think in general, we judge everyone way more than we should. Jesus never judged, He’s always loved. If we’re trying to live like Jesus, [then] loving is the best thing we can do.” How would you respond?