



**Title:** Judging

**Category:** Sin

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“Do not judge, or you too will be judged.’ Jesus said. ‘For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you’” (Matthew 7:1-2).

Jesus said, “Do not judge, or you too will be judged.” Not maybe might; you will. Such a warning might make us want to take a neutral stance on everyone and everything. Yet, there are areas that we are to judge. Sin is sin; that should be easy for us to judge, and thereby, avoid. That’s not what Jesus is talking about. He’s talking about judging others. That’s an area we are really not qualified. We would have to think pretty high of ourselves if we think we are qualified to judge the thoughts and attitudes of someone else’s heart. That’s why He said, “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 7:3).

Paul came to Athens, Greece, and found a group of people that had all different kinds of gods. They had a god to cover everything, even the unknown—or, the just-in-case-we-forgot-one god. Paul was upset with the amount of idols that the Athenians worshipped and could have judged them to be hopeless and moved on from there. He would have missed the opportunity God set up. Instead, he saw them as a people who were searching for God—the one true God—and just hadn’t found Him yet. Paul stood up among them and said, “Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. Now what you worship as unknown I am going to proclaim to you” (Acts 17:22-23).

If Paul had judged them, they would have never given him the opportunity to speak. “A man reaps what he sows” (Galatians 6:7). If we want respect, we have to give respect; if we want our turn to speak, we have to listen. The measure we use will be measured to us, so be careful. “Do not judge.”