

# GLAD YOU ASKED

## To Judge or Not to Judge?

### Getting Started

1. With the people around you, share one high point and one low point from the past week.
2. “Do not judge” is one of the most often quoted (and misquoted) Bible verses there is. What do you think are some of the other most misused Bible passages?

### Matthew 7 - To Judge or Not to Judge?

3. Matthew 7:1 says “*Do not judge, or you too will be judged.*” That seems pretty straightforward. Why is this even a question? To answer that, we need to know two of the main rules of Biblical interpretation:
  - a.
  - b.
4. In order to give a complete answer to the question of whether we should judge, we need to look at what other Scripture passages say. In your groups, read your assigned passages, then use that passage to add to the chart on the back side of the sheet.
  - a. **Matthew 7:1-5, 16-20**
  - b. **John 7:24** *Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.*
  - c. **James 4:12** *There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?*

- d. **1 Corinthians 4:3-4** *I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.*
- e. **Romans 14:1, 10** *Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.*
- f. **Colossians 2:16** *Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.*
- g. **1 Samuel 16:7b** *The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*
- h. **1 Corinthians 5:12** *What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?*

**Do Not Judge**

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**Do Judge**

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**What would you do?**

- 5. Based on what we've talked about, should you judge in the following scenarios? Why or why not?
  - a. A fellow member at church posts a profanity-laced rant about politics on social media.
  - b. Your non-Christian coworker is flirting with a woman, but he's married.
  - c. You see a fellow Christian out at a bar, stumbling into the bathroom.

**Wrapping it Up**

- 6. List some potential reasons unbelievers might say, "Christians are too judgmental."
  
- 7. God is the ultimate judge who sees beyond mere appearances and knows what's really in people's hearts. And yet, God is both the judge and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus (Romans 3:26). How does that truth help us as we navigate these difficult questions of when and how to judge?