

JUDGE NOT.....FOR WITH WHAT JUDGMENT YOU JUDGE

YOU SHALL BE JUDGED MAT 7:1,2.

[Parua Bay CF - 18/12/94 – EKB]

1. This judging Jesus warns us against is judging and condemning or passing sentence on one another, (not evaluative judgment where we are deciding whether or not some action or word is right or wrong. The latter is commanded by God's Word, *1Thes 5:21, 1Jn 4:1, Jn 7:24, Lk 7:43, 1Cor 10:15, 1Cor 2:15, Mat 7:16, Rom 16:17, Eph 5:11, Ac 17:11, 1Cor 6:3, 1Cor 5:12, 2Cor 13:5, 1Cor 11:31.*)
2. To avoid judging another person, who has done something hurtful, or failed to do something he should have done, we must be quick to forgive them, release them from every judgmental, condemning thought or word, and pray an appropriate blessing from God upon them, e.g. *Ac 26:18.*
3. We all want to be treated with mercy and grace by God and the people around us, and Jesus says to treat others as we want to be treated, *Mat 7:12*. This is the "royal law of scripture," *Jam 2:8, Lev 19:18*. It is the "perfect law of liberty," *Jam 1:25, 2:12,13*. Furthermore we all need to be treated with mercy and grace because no one of us is perfect and faultless. We all fall short in many things and are in need of mercy and grace all the time, *Heb 4:16, Jam 3:2*.
4. When we assume the position of a judge over others we are also making a statement that we consider ourselves to be without fault. Because this is not true, the result is that the judgment we level at someone else boomerangs back and lands on us. "You are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge, practice the same things," *Rom 2:1*.
5. We definitely need God's constant mercy and grace to be flowing in to our lives, not His judgment upon our shortcomings and failures, and for this reason we must treat others as we want to be treated. Jesus said, "With the same measure (treatment of others) you use, it will be measured back to you," *Mat 7:2*.
6. The moment we pass judgment upon another, we step out from under mercy and grace and we step under the judgment of God, As a result the waters of life become troubled, upset, tense, and the anointing of the Spirit, His joy and peace departs from us. Judgment binds others and binds us, whereas obedience to the "royal law," *Jam 2:8*, is also found to be the "perfect law of liberty," *Jam 1:25, Jam 2:12,13*
7. Examine the relationships you have with people, close to you and see if you have judgmental thoughts and attitudes towards them. Release them now, forgive them and pray God's blessings upon them. Your judgment of them will hold you and them in a static bondage and prevent the God of mercy and grace transforming you and them into His image. The moment you release them from your condemning judgment, and pray God's richest blessing upon them, claiming His promises on their behalf, the Living God will give peace and joy and continue His inward work of transformation into His image.

8. *Jam 4:11,12* says that where we judge our brother and speak evil of him, we are judging God's law and speaking evil of God's law, *Lev 19:18, Jam 2:8*, because, in effect, we are saying by our behaviour that God's law is wrong. So God says, "Who are you to judge another?" *Rom 14:4*.
9. "Discerning the Lord's Body," *1Cor 11:29*, means to maintain attitudes of forgiveness and mercy and blessing towards our brothers and sisters in Christ. Failure to do this has deadly consequences, *1Cor 11:30*. Before you take from the Lord's Table of mercy and grace release others from your judgment and bless them, or else the blessing you seek will become judgment instead, *Mk 11:25,26*.