

JUDGE NOT, THAT YOU BE NOT JUDGED – *Mat 7:1,2*

(Kaitaia Churches' Combined Night of Prayer – 1-2/12/2000 - EKB)

1. **The “judging” referred to here is in the sense of condemning or passing sentence**, it is **not in the sense of testing**, assessing or evaluating as we are instructed to do in *1Thes 5:21, Ac 17:11, 1Cor 10:15, 1Cor 2:15, 1Jn 4:1*.
2. We become aware of **wrong “judging”** when we have unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment, hard feelings, hate and the like towards another person. When we are holding this kind of judgment against another **we are thereby condemning ourselves** as it says in *Rom 2:1-3*, and implied in *Mat 7:1,2*.
3. The reason for this is that **we all fall short in many things** as it says in *Jam 3:2, Ps 130:3, Ps 143:2, Rom 3:10*, and stand in need of God’s continual mercy and grace, *Heb 4:16*.
4. **God treats us as we treat others**. This comes through loud and clear in *Mat 7:1,2, Mat 6:12,14,15, Mk 11:25,26, Mat 18:21-35*. Forgive and we will be forgiven, judge and we will be judged.
5. So *Jam 4:11,12* tells us not to take the place of a “judge” towards another person. When we do this we are **lifting ourselves up as a judge** over the other person as though we ourselves were living without fault. *Lk 18:14* warns us that when we lift ourselves up we will be brought low, but if we humble ourselves we will be lifted up.
6. When someone does something bad to us **we suffer because of it**. In extending forgiveness to the offender we are not pretending he/she did no wrong. What we are doing is **releasing them from our judgment and handing the situation over to God as Judge**, *Rom 12:19,20, 14:4*.
7. But **we must go one more step beyond forgiveness** and that is to also **pray for their highest good**, such as in *Ac 26:18, Col 1:9-11*. Jesus tells us to do that in *Mat 5:44*.
8. You see we all stand by grace. *Rom 5:2, 14:4*, and faith, *2Cor 1:24*. **We need God’s mercy and grace all the time**. Everyday we need God’s forgiveness and mercy, *1Jn 1:8-10, Heb 4:16*.
9. We reap what we sow, *Gal 6:7,8*. This is what *Mat 7:2b* is saying. **The degree of mercy we give out to others will be the degree of mercy that we receive**, *Lk 6:27-38*.
10. The only way to come through our hurts, upsets, trials, tests, problems and broken relationships, is to **forgive, release from judgment, hand the situation over to God and keep praying prayers of blessing** on to those who have hurt us as the Holy Spirit directs, (e.g. *Ac 26:18, Col 1:9-11*). As we do this the ache in our heart disappears and we are free to rejoice in God’s presence again.
11. If we hold offence and judgment against another person, judgment from God comes upon us, *Mat 18:32-35*, and we cease to make much spiritual progress. We are only forgiven as we forgive and bless from our heart, *Mat 6:14,15, 18:32-35*.

12. So forgive, release from judgment and bless others who hurt you **and move through all your hurts, tests and broken relationships without a major holdup.** In this way all the opposition that comes from time to time will not hinder your spiritual progress.