

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON OUTLINE
August 5th, 2018
Matthew 7:1-5

- There is a massive issue in our culture today with judgment, or discernment, as a whole. We are a people in this culture that are continually bombarded with differing or opposing viewpoints, all of which say that judgment of worldviews is discrimination and a personal offense.
- Post-modernism is the belief that truth is relative. What is true for you, isn't true for me.
- We are in a state of post-modernism in our society. And it is a sign of decay in terms of civilization's history. And even in evangelicalism, we deal with this issue: Are we to make our beliefs a matter of critical importance, or a matter we are willing to sacrifice for, or not?
- **“Judge not, that you be not judged.”**
 - This is easily the most thrown about statement from Scripture. Let's take a closer, contextual look at the real meaning of these statements in Matthew 7.
 - **Hermeneutics** is the study of how we are to understand the Bible. Do we understand it as subjective, meaning whatever we want it to mean? No, we interpret based on context, that is, surrounding verses, passages, and general messages of entire books, not subjectively.
 - Also, it is foolish to simply say, “judge not,” period, because frankly that's impossible pragmatically. You make judgments about people every day. Christ Himself advocates it in **Matthew 10:13-15**.
- **“For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.”**
 - Christ here makes the rule: However you judge, you will also be judged. If you judge hastily, or unwisely, perhaps impatiently, or even without all the facts of the matter at hand, that is how you are also going to be treated!
 - Christ in his teaching in Matthew very often deals with this issues of like-reciprocity, or as some would call it, irony. For example, **Matthew 18:21-39**, or **Matthew 25:14-30**.
 - So then, when making judgments of a moral and spiritual nature, we have to bear in mind that we judge with “righteous judgment,” as Christ says in **John 7:24**.
- **“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”**
 - But then note that Christ specifically condemns hypocrisy in the next few verses. Hypocrisy is not tolerated. See also **Romans 2:1, 21-22**.
- **Conclusion: So then, do judge! But judge wisely. Judge according to Scripture. And ultimately, as Christ states here, judge by the standard you wish to be judged by. If this guides all of your discernment, you will do well.**