# Love Your Neighbor As Yourself

**Brent Moody** · Matthew 7:1–6

## INTRODUCTION

- The way this is typically used, at least when I see it, is really that you should bow to my demands or you aren't loving.
- Judge not is kind of like the other side of that. I can do whatever I want, and you can't tell me I can't.
- And these two phrases I think are misused and abused in society quite frequently. And so I want to work through both of them.

## 1 Define the Terms: Love and Judgment

**Matthew 7:1–6**

- What is love, and what is the idea of judgment? Love, I think, is properly defined by the cross.
- The clearest concrete example is that Jesus did what was best for others. That was love.
- Judgment, you can also call it discernment, depending on the context.
- Even within Matthew 7, what we're actually being told to do is to judge fairly, to be careful in our judgment.

## 2 Understand the Context of Matthew 7

**Matthew 7:1**

- This is Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.
- Jesus has pretty much been lambasting the Pharisees and the rulers for quite some time.
- He's getting back to the common person and saying, that's all true, but be careful. Be careful how you judge them.
- And what really needs to happen is you get the log out of your own eye first.

## 3 You Shall Be Holy, for I Am Holy

**Leviticus 19:1–2; Leviticus 19:15–18**

- You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God am holy.
- You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.
- You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.
- It is exactly the sort of thing Paul talks about, which is we put others' interests before our own, and we're looking out for what is best for everyone.

## 4 Don't Judge When You Are in a Poor Position

**Proverbs 18:13; Proverbs 18:17; Matthew 7:1–5**

- We can delay judgment so we avoid judging hypocritically. This is really the point of Matthew 7.
- Along with this is the danger of judging ignorantly. Have I actually made an effort to get the full picture?
- The one who states his case first seems right until the other comes and examines him.
- And the reality is the story is not equal to the facts.

## 5 Judge Your Neighbor Fairly and Righteously

**Leviticus 19:15; Galatians 6:1; Galatians 5:19–23**

- He doesn't say don't judge, right? That's not the point at all. It says you shall do it righteously or fairly.
- If anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself lest you too be tempted.
- Judgment is done properly by those who are spiritual, who have looked inward first.
- Judgment is in connection to truth and God's standards, not opinions or emotions or social norms.

## 6 Questions to Help Us Judge Situations Fairly

**Leviticus 19:15**

- Judging fairly isn't about winning. It's about doing the right thing no matter what.
- Do we have a good picture? Do we actually have a full picture of this? Or do we just hear something and jump on it immediately?
- Have I considered my own biases? This could be a 30-minute topic right here. The reality is, I've said this many times, we all have our own biases.

THE CHALLENGE

I need to think about me and what I need to fix and what I need to change. And you need to think about you and what you need to fix and what you need to change.

MY NOTES