

## Where Love Leads, The Gospel Follows (cont.)

**Matthew 5:13-16 (NLT)** *"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*

**Matthew 7:3-5 (NKJV)** *And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

### I. Love does not judge

**John 3:17-18 (NASB 2020)** *For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him. The one who believes in Him is not judged; the one who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*

Jesus is not here to judge who deserves what. Jesus is our example of the NT church in action!

**John 5:14 (NKJV)** *Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."*

**Jesus did not excuse his sin, but he didn't judge him here on the earth for it either!**

**Luke 7:14-15 (NKJV)** *Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.*

**No request. No prior faith statement. Jesus acts out of compassion.**

**Mark 3:3-5 (NKJV)** *And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Step forward." Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent. And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.*

**Jesus heals the man in the synagogue without any recorded confession of faith. The focus is on Jesus confronting hard-heartedness and demonstrating mercy.**

**Matthew 14:14 (NKJV)** *And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.*

**Jesus healed many in the crowd before any mass commitment to follow Him. In fact, speaking of this same crowd, many later walked away (John 6:66).**

### II. To Judge or not to judge – To judge is human nature!

**Matthew 7:1-2 (NKJV)** *"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.*

**John 7:24 (NASB 2020)** *Do not judge by the outward appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."*

#### 1.) Matthew 7:1-2 –Sermon on the mount

In Matthew 7, Jesus is addressing hypocrisy and self-righteousness. Just a few verses later (7:3–5), He talks about: *Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite!*

The issue is not discernment. The issue is condemning others while being blind to your own sin and shortcomings. So Matthew 7:1 forbids: Harsh, prideful condemnation, Playing God, Judging motives! It is about measuring others by a standard you refuse to apply to yourself. It is about attitude and posture.

**1 Corinthians 5:12-13 (NLT)** *It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. God will judge those on the outside;*

## 2.) John 7:24 –Jesus speaking to religious leaders

Here, Jesus is confronting superficial religious judgment. The Pharisees were judging Him based on appearances — particularly regarding healing on the Sabbath.

So He says: “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.” Here He commands: Discernment, Careful evaluation, Judging based on truth, not surface impressions. This is not about condemnation

### III. How difficult is righteous judgment then

John 7:24 (NASB 2020) Do not judge by the outward appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

John 8:11 (NKJV) She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

Righteous judgment must be humble and limited because we do not know the full story or the true motives of the heart—only the Spirit of God does.

Matthew 7:16 (NLT) You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

1 Corinthians 2:11 (NLT) No one can know a person’s thoughts except that person’s own spirit, and no one can know God’s thoughts except God’s own Spirit.

1 Corinthians 4:5 (NLT) So don’t make judgments about anyone ahead of time—before the Lord returns. For he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due.

**So, Is It Safe to Say Righteous Judgment Is Difficult? Yes — and biblically so.**

**Righteous judgment requires:** Scripture as the standard, Humility about our limitations, Awareness that appearances deceive, and Recognition that we do not know the whole story.

**Scripture allows us to judge:** Actions, Teaching, Fruit, and Doctrine

**But Scripture does not allow us to judge:** Motives of the heart, Hidden struggles, and Final spiritual standing.

That’s where righteous judgment becomes difficult — and why it must remain humble. Jesus forbids hypocritical judgment (Matthew 7:1-5) but commands righteous judgment based on truth, not appearance (John 7:24). Yet we must remember that only the Spirit truly knows the heart (1 Corinthians 2:11). Therefore, we may evaluate actions, but we must do so humbly, recognizing that God alone searches motives.

Galatians 6:1 (NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (NLT) If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience.

Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT) Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Love is not merely a Christian virtue—it is the governing aim of Christian living, the fulfillment of the Law, the goal of instruction, the evidence of faith, and the mark of true discipleship.