

**The Hard Way – Judging Others**      **Matthew 7:1-6**  
Bethel Bible Church      July 19, 2020

Have you ever thought that being a Christian is hard? If you have, you have a friend in Jesus. The way is hard that leads to life. Jesus said so (7:14). This new life in Jesus does not come naturally to anyone. The hard question Jesus addresses in our passage today is this:

How does a Christ follower behave toward someone who has fallen short, failed to live up to expectations or stands in need of correction?

Before we look at Jesus teaching and illustrations, here's the point: Jesus forbids the various ways we condemn others for their shortcomings while neglecting or minimizing our own.

Jesus teaches 3 principles that help us understand and obey his command regarding how we treat each other in our shortcomings.

**1. Stop judging – God is the ultimate judge.**      1-2      *That you be not judged*

Two reasons to stop judging . . .

Two root issues to address . . .

**2. Stop judging – you are not qualified.**      3-4      *Why? How?*

Two diagnostic questions . . .

Why do you see or notice something relatively small in someone else's life while not noticing something huge and obvious in your own life?

How can you help someone remove something small from their eye when you yourself cannot see clearly?

**3. Stop judging – judge yourself first.**      7:5-6      *first take the log out of your own eye*

Make a priority of seeing and owning your own sin.      Remove the log

Humbly come alongside others to gently restore.      And then you will see clearly

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.  
Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.*

Psalm 51:10-13