

Getting Started

Do you think Christians get a bad rap for being judgmental? Can you give examples? Do you think that reputation is deserved?

Christians do a lot of good in the world. Why don’t we get credit for that?

Into the Bible

What do the following verses teach about Christians and judgment?

Romans 12:19—

Luke 5:27-32—

Matthew 7:1-5 (Think carefully about this one: is it a prohibition on all judgment or a call for humility in judgment?)—

Romans 2:1—

1 Corinthians 4:5—

1 Corinthians 5:12-13—

Spend a few minutes summarizing. How is judgment supposed to figure in Christian life and practice? Do we do that well or poorly?

What do Matthew 7:15-20 and 1 John 4:1 tell us about appropriate judgment?

To whom is that judgment especially entrusted? Where should that judgment be exercised?

How do you feel about the idea that some are supposed to exercise judgment?

In Luke 15:1, who’s gathering around Jesus and why do you suppose they do so?

Digging Deeper

Many Christians recoil at the idea of passing judgment on others yet they habitually live in judgment on others. Why is it so easy to be perceived as judgmental? What is it in those who feel judged? What is it in ourselves?