**Judge Not, That Ye Be Not Judged - Matt 7:1ff**

A commonly misused Bible text is Matt 7:1 "Judge not, that ye be not judged." Any time sin is preached against, people cry foul - "you are judging others!"

But actually the context shows this passage is not condemning all judging of others, but hypocritical judging. Don't criticize another if you are doing the same thing you are criticizing them for. Here is the context - verse 1-5: Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou **hypocrite**, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

You see, the point of the passage is not to never judge at all, but to get the beam out of our own eye so we can see clearly to get the mote out of our brother's eye. So the passage is actually encouraging us to teach against sin, but to get our own life right with God before we start trying to help others get their life right with God.

Just the opposite of what people say, many passages actually require judgment of others:

* John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.
* II John 9-11 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.
* II Thess 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.
* Rev 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Here is how we judge whether or not someone is a false teacher or not:

* I John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.
* Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

And doing that keeps us from being led astray by such false teachers:

* Matt 15:14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.
* II Pet 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in [condemnable] heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
* II Tim 2:17-18 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

So according to these verses - false teachers are destroyed (spiritually) by their own false teaching, and they cause those that accept their teaching to be condemned. We've got to take this righteous judging thing seriously.

Examples of false teachers …

Allows gay marriage – I Cor 6:9-10 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. (NKJV)

Allows adulterous marriage – Matt 19:9 - And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Allows women preachers – I Tim 2:11-12 – Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

Teaches a sinner doesn’t have to be baptized to be saved – Mark 16:16 - He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Teaches OSAS – II Pet 2:20-22 – For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Why is OSAS such a dangerous doctrine? - Baptist preacher Vernon Barr said “Baptists teach that a child of God can do anything he wants to and go to heaven anyhow.” How are many of his listeners likely to live?

Teaches obedience is not necessary to salvation – Heb 5:9 - And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;