

Sermon Notes - November 20, 2016

“Non-Judgmental Judgments”

Matthew 7:1-5

Pastor Bill Hoffman

Some students of the New Testament see Matthew 7:1-12 as a unit with “the golden rule” in verse 12 being the overarching principle, and verses 1-5 being a negative example.

Some hear Jesus’ words in verse 1 as an absolute prohibition against making moral judgments. Assumptions that may underlie such a view include:

- All moral perspectives are equally valid.
- People are doing the best they can.
- In making moral judgments people can be narrow, petty, and self-righteous.

Which of these premises might Jesus accept?

Much of Scripture – including in the Sermon on the Mount – presumes that Jesus’ followers will make judgments between truth and falsehood, right and wrong.

- What ought to be our standard in making such judgments?
- According to verses 3-5, what ought to be our attitude? (see also Galatians 6:1)
- How might making judgments in such ways be helpful?