Judging
Matt. 7:1-5

Introduction:
A. People who know little else about the Bible, know this passage.
   1. Use it to soothe conscience by shifting guilt (“You’re just as bad, you judge).
   2. Use it as excuse for avoiding unpleasant responsibilities:
      a. Rebutting sinners (cf. 2 Tim. 4:2; Tit. 1:13).
      b. Drawing lines of fellowship (2 John 9-11).
B. People who want to do right often have problems with it.
   1. Told to “judge not” and to “judge” in the same verse (John 7:24)
   2. Need to study two kinds of judging taught in the New Testament:

Discussion:
I. Unrighteous Judging.
   A. Inconsistent or hypocritical judgment (Matt. 7:1-5; Rom. 2:1-3, 21-23)
      1. Do the same things (Do not have to perfect to correct others)
      2. Use double standard (Jas. 3:17).
   B. Inconsiderate and unmerciful judgment (Luke 6:36, 37; Jas. 2:13).
         a. Might be an valid explanation (cf. Man “stuck up” was on way to arrange father’s burial)
         b. Might be a valid alternative (Could be this, but could be something else)
      3. Judging absolutely without considering opportunity and ability
         a. No one can be everywhere and do everything.
         b. No one can know with certainty another’s opportunity and ability.
   C. Judging the heart or motives (1 Cor. 4:3-5).
      1. Can see what one does, and hear what he says, but why?
      2. Can misjudge one’s motive for sin – “just didn’t want to do right” (cf. Rom 7:19-23)
      3. Can misjudge one’s motive for right action – “just preaches for money or notoriety.”
      4. Actions may reveal motives in time, but must void hasty judgment of the heart.

II. Righteous Judging.
   A. It is righteous to judge in some matters (1 Cor. 6:1-8).
   B. It is righteous to judge teachers (1 John 4:1; Matt. 7:1, 15-20)
   C. It is righteous to judge some to unsound in the faith (Tit. 1:12-13)
   D. It is righteous to judge that some need discipline (Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 5:3-5, 12-13; 2 Thess. 3:6. 14).

Conclusion:
A. We must not judge unrighteously.
B. We must judge righteously.
C. We must realize that God is the final judge.