

Guidance for a Deadly Missile Matthew 7:1-6 (part 1)

Judgment must be carefully guided.

Use biblical standards and procedures!

Precedents & standards to guide godly discernment:

1. You are not the judge – God is. vs. 1

Am I acting as if this is by my authority?

- **The Judge** Romans 14:10
- **The judgment** 1 Corinthians 11:30-32

Apply: Don't join the ecclesiastic mafia.

2. Judgment applies two directions. vs. 2

Can I live by my own standards and judgments?

- Matthew 7:12
- Romans 2:1-4 cf. 2 Samuel 12:1-12 & Galatians 6:1ff.

Apply: Be as tolerant of others as of myself.

Be as critical of myself as others.

3. Judgment follows compliance. vss. 3-5

- **Don't judge in an area of blindness. 3**

Am I trying to hide my own sin?

- **Don't judge before gaining clarity. 4-5**

Am I healthy and growing in this area?

Apply: Serve as a fellow-struggler.

4. Judgment requires care. vs. 5

- **It requires sensitivity!**

Am I handling this as gently as possible?

- **It requires clarity!**

Do I see the facts clearly?

- **It requires a remedy !**

Am I trying to heal or hurt?

Apply: ...first yourself then others...

5. A lack of judgment will destroy you! vs. 6

Am I being discerning?

Challenge: Opening my eyes to a critical spirit!

Heart Check Up for Judge Wannabe's

- ♥ *Am I acting as if this is by my authority?*
- ♥ *Am I finding pleasure in another's failure or fault?*
- ♥ *Am I issuing standards and judgments I don't or can't live by?*
- ♥ *Am I trying to hide my own sin with a smokescreen of words?*
- ♥ *Am I unhealthy or refusing to grow in this same area?*
- ♥ *Am I handling this with undue force rather than gentleness?*
- ♥ *Am I speaking from emotion rather than a clear view of facts?*
- ♥ *Am I trying to hurt rather than heal?*
- ♥ *Am I being condemning rather than restoring and redeeming?*

If so, then I had better reserve judgment for a higher court.