



# Bad Advice: only God can judge me

We often hear the phrase, “only God can judge me.” But what does that mean? We have heard that can’t out-sin God’s grace for us, but does that mean we that there are no consequences for sinning? Is it only up to God to judge us?

## Thinking Points

1. Read John 13:35. How will people know that we are Jesus’ disciples? How does that look?
2. Do you think loving each other automatically includes some kind of judgement?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-12.
  - a. Who does God say we should judge?
  - b. Who does He say we shouldn’t judge?
4. What do you think about judgement being a responsibility?
5. Disciples should be characterized by their love. When we judge people within the church, all of our judgement should be rooted in a foundation of love. Any judgement that occurs should come from a context of wishing to elevate the other person, so that they may be able to reflect Jesus in a more accurate way.
6. Read Matthew 7:3-5. What do you think this verse means? What do we need to do before we can judge others in a healthy way?
7. Proximity and intimacy are integral when it comes to healthy judgement. Why do you think proximity and intimacy are so important?

<sup>3</sup>“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”

<sup>4</sup>How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?

<sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

**MATTHEW 7:3-5**

## Next Steps

1. Jesus has the perfect balance of grace and truth. We don’t always get it right. Invite Him into your heart and ask Him to help you, so that we may get the balance right, and in so doing become effective helpers, elevating those around us.

Although we have a responsibility to hold Jesus-followers to a standard, every interaction we have should be firmly founded in His love. The best place to elevate people is right from Jesus’ feet. When we ask Him for his grace and truth, we are able to connect with people in an effective and healthy way. We will transform our community through the way we love one another; embracing Him, speaking truth and extending grace.

**JOHN 13:35**

**“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”**