Intro: Judging is a very sensitive, misunderstood, and misused concept. *Judging* is a verb whose primary meaning is “to form an opinion about through careful weighing of evidence and testing of premises” (Webster). Yet, many will only think of Jesus statement in Matthew 7:1 (“Judge not, that ye be not judged.”) when they think of any concept of *judging*; yet misapplying what Jesus actually said. So let us look at judging in this lesson.

I. **Matthew 7:1** “Judge not, that ye be not judged.”

   A. **Does Jesus condemn all judging?**
      1. No!
      2. John 7:24 “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”
      3. It would contradict what Jesus said immediately after this statement.

   B. **Context of this statement.**
      1. They type of judging Jesus condemns.
         a. We will be judged by the same harsh condemnation we pass on others; Mat. 7:2 “For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.”
         b. Looking for the smallest of sins in others (mote hunters) while ignoring our own sins; Mat. 7:3-5 “And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 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? 5 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.”
      2. Judging Jesus authorizes in Matthew 7.
         a. Casting out the mote; Mat. 7:5 “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.”
         b. Those who are unworthy.
            (1) Mat. 7:6 “Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”
            (2) We must judge those who are “dogs” and “swine.”
            (3) It would be judging those who do not appreciate spiritual instruction and matters.
         c. False teachers; Mat. 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”
         d. Other’s fruit; Mat. 7:16-20 “Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”
      3. In all the judging we do, we must practice the golden rule; Mat. 7:12 “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

II. **We Are To Judge.**

   A. As already seen from the context of Matthew 7.
B. Other passages show such:

1. Dan. 7:22 “Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.”
   a. Saints are given judgment during the Christian age (when the Son of man comes to the Ancient of Days).
   b. Dan. 7:13-14 “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

2. Judgment would be given to the apostles.
   a. Mat. 19:28 “And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”
      (1) The regeneration is during the time of the new birth.
      (2) It is when the Son of Man has received the throne of glory or returned to the ancient of days.
      (3) The “twelve tribes of Israel” would refer to all Christians making up spiritual Israel or the church.
   b. Luke 22:30 “That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”
      (1) We eat and drink at the Lord’s table (the Lord’s Supper) in the church.
      (2) During the time of the Lord’s Supper is partaken, you will be on thrones judging.
   c. The apostles (as Christ’s ambassadors) judge Israel through the Word given to them by the Holy Spirit.

3. 1 Cor. 2:15 “But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.”

4. 1 Cor. 6:2-3 “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?”

5. Jude 14-15 “And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”
   a. It is generally thought this refers to the second coming of Christ.
   b. The context is that the church is to execute judgment upon those who are ungodly and put them out of the church.

6. Rev. 20:4 “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”
   a. John sees the souls who are living and reigning with Christ.
      (1) We live and reign with Christ now
      (2) Rev. 1:5-6 “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”
      (3) Rev. 5:9-10 “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of
every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”

b. They are sitting on thrones.
c. They are given judgment.

C. Must be righteous judging.
1. John 7:24 “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”
2. Righteousness is revealed in God’s Word.
   a. Psa. 119:172 “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.”
   b. Rom. 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
3. The judging we do is to be according to the proper standard of God’s Word.

III. PROPER JUDGING

A. Civil Courts
1. Rom. 13:3-4 “For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.”
2. 1 Pet. 2:13-14 “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.”

B. Personally
1. 1 Cor. 6:3-4 “Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? 4If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.”
2. We do this all the time in about all aspects of life.
4. Personal relationships.

C. Spiritually
1. Whether or not one is a Christian.
   a. We have been given a charge to preach the Gospel to the alien sinner.
      (1) Mark 16:15 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
      (2) We then must determine who is and who is not a Christian.
   b. We only have the right to fellowship those who are Christians.
2. Judging religious groups:
   a. Jesus; Mat. 23.
   b. Paul; Acts 13:45-46 “But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. 46Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.”
   c. Stephen; Acts 7:5-52 “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. 52Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:”
3. Teachers; whether they are true or false.
   a. Mat. 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”
   b. 1 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.”

4. Those in the church.
   a. Those who are elders anddeacons.
      (1) In the selection of men to appoint to these works.
         (a) Acts 6:3 “Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.”
         (b) Tit. 1:5 “For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee.”
         (c) Judge whether they meet the qualifications or not.
      (2) In those that sin; 1 Tim. 5:19-20 “Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.”
   b. Those divisive:
      (1) Rom. 16:17 “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”
      (2) Tit. 3:10-11 “A man that is an heretick [factious—ASV, stirs up division—ESV] after the first and second admonition reject. 11 Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.”
   c. In withdrawing fellowship from unruly members.
      (1) 1 Cor. 5:
         (a) The entire chapter deals with judging a fornicator.
         (b) Notice especially:
            i) 1 Cor. 5:3 “For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,”
            ii) 1 Cor. 5:12-13 “For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? 13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.”
         (c) Notice others we must judge: 1 Cor. 5:11 “But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.”
      (2) 2 Thes. 3:6, 14 “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.... 14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.”

Conclusion: Certainly there are some types of judgments which men make that is wrong and sinful, however there are some judgments that we must make if we want to please God. We must make sure that we judge properly.