

FATAL EXAMS

Matthew 7:1-5

We must be very careful about diagnosing the flaws in another Christian's life

I. THE COMMAND REGARDING FATAL EXAMS (1a)

- Do not judge

A. THE REALITY OF JUDGING: Criticism

1. Making a habit of sharp, censorious, prejudiced and unjust criticism
2. Separating out the facts and then making an evaluation or analysis
3. Forming a personal opinion often without adequate information
4. Being critical > Analyzing another's performance

B. THE RATIONALE FOR JUDGING: Qualification

1. The judge is much more disciplined and diligent in their spiritual life
2. Such a judge perfectly fulfills the Matthew 6 instructions

C. THE RESULT IN JUDGING: Condemnation

1. The critical judge believes he or she is capable of determining guilt and punishment
2. These assume authority and superiority over others
3. Proverbs 13:10 tells of the insolent, proud or presumptuous who cause strife

D. A REMINDER ABOUT JUDGMENT: Caution

- See Romans 14:1-15:6

1. Prohibition: Stop focusing on judgment (14:1-12)
2. Prescription: Start focusing on sensitivity (14:13-15:6)

E. A RECOGNITION OF JUDGMENT: Consideration

1. It is not wrong to be discerning - I John 4:1
2. It is not wrong to confront an erring brother - Matt. 18:15-17, Gal. 6:1-2
3. There are times when we must denounce error and those who promote it
- See here in Matt. 6:6 & 15 and also Galatians 1:8, 2:11 and 5:11-12
4. This command is all about attitude ... How do we approach people?

Next page >

II. THE CAUTION WITH REGARD TO FATAL EXAMS (1b-2)

A. CONSIDER THE CRITICISM (1b)

- In order not to be hyper-criticized don't practice hyper-criticism

B. CONSIDER THE ANALYSIS (2)

1. The way we judge (2a)
 - a. Our judgment style or harshness will be used against us
 - b. Justice judgment is one option - See Luke 6:1-2 and Matt. 9:1-7 for examples
 - c. Mercy judgment is another option - See II Sam. 12:13 and John 8:1-11 for examples
2. The measure we use (2b)
 - a. How much grace do we give to others? - See Eph. 4:1-2
 - b. Is the measure accurate? Authoritative?

III. THE CONDITION OF MAKING FATAL EXAMS (3-4)

A. LOOKING AT OTHERS

1. We easily see and focus on their speck (3)
2. We readily offer "help" to this brother (4)

B. NEGLECTING TO LOOK WITHIN

1. We do not consider our plank (3b) > See James 1:22-25
2. We fail to realize our serious lack of ability (4b)

IV. THE CORRECTION OF FATAL EXAMS (5)

A. RECOGNIZE HYPOCRISY

1. We're often play acting at spirituality
2. In reality many live in fear of being "found out"

B. REMOVE THE PLANK: Be Humble

1. Deal with rotten attitudes - Phil. 2:3-4, I Peter 5:5
2. Dethrone ourselves - Gal. 6:3
3. Repent!

C. REGAIN GODLY VISION

1. Reconstructive surgery will be needed once the log is removed
2. Recuperation will also be necessary
3. Re-education will be required > Study Christ's interactions and I Cor. 13

D. RESTORE A WOUNDED BROTHER

- Now we can truly be helpful

CONCLUSION:

Fatal exams can be fatal for the examiner more than for the examined

- We may discover that we have heart cancer!

A critical spirit is dangerous for our spiritual well-being

Like one who takes a dog by the ears Is he who passes by *and* meddles with strife not belonging to him. - Proverbs 26:17

All Scripture is from The New American Standard Version - Updated
Copyright 1995 The Lockman Foundation