

***Sound Bite***  
**Week 5: - To Judge or Not to Judge**  
**May 25, 2025**

**1. Introduction**

- Greeting and welcome to Tab.
- Acknowledgement of Memorial Day and a moment of prayer.
- Introduction to the theme: "To judge or not to judge?"

**2. The Tension in Scripture**

- Matthew 7:1-2 — Jesus says, "*Do not judge...*"
- John 7:24 — Jesus also says, "*Judge with righteous judgment...*"
- The Bible appears to both prohibit and permit judgment — how do we reconcile this?

**3. Context is Key**

- Example: The word "*hit*" has different meanings depending on context (parenting vs. baseball).
- Key Insight: Context helps us understand that Matthew 7 speaks to *religious hypocrisy*, not all judgment.

**4. Righteous Judgment Requires Two Things**

**A. Right Motivation**

- We must begin with introspection — why are we judging?
- Watch out for the *yeast of the Pharisees*: religious hypocrisy.

**B. Right Metric**

- The standard is not personal opinion, but God's righteousness.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 — Christ's righteousness exchanged for our sin.

**5. Judgment Comes with Accountability**

- Matthew 7:2 — We will be judged by the same standard.
- 2 Corinthians 5:10 — Our deeds (good and evil) will be judged by Christ.
- Judgment isn't peer-to-peer; it's eternal and eschatological.

**6. Jesus' Comical Yet Convicting Illustration**

- Matthew 7:3-5 — The splinter and the beam analogy.
- It's foolish to correct others while ignoring our own sin.
- Introspection is a prerequisite for righteous judgment.
- Humility aligns our motives and reminds us we all fall short.

## 7. A Warning Against Hypocrisy in Practice

- Judgment should come from love and humility – not gossip or religious posturing.  
Example: Addressing sexual sin in culture while ignoring internal struggles like pornography.  
Statistic: 54% of Christians admit to viewing pornography occasionally – hidden sins within the church must be confronted.

## 8. The Balance: Avoiding Extremes

### A. Extreme #1: Judgmentalism

- Leads to pride, hypocrisy, and spiritual harm.

### B. Extreme #2: Naivete

- Matthew 7:6 – Don't toss pearls before pigs.  
Ethical relativism is equally dangerous.  
We must lovingly protect the community of faith and uphold truth.

## 9. The Standard is Christ

- Our foundation is God's righteousness as revealed through Jesus.  
We strive together toward holiness, not perfection, but progress.  
We don't flippantly judge, nor do we ignore sin.

## 10. Conclusion

- Reaffirming Tab's Core Values:
  - We Bend to the Book
  - We Inspire through Grace
- To judge or not to judge? It's not a simple answer.
- The Holy Spirit will lead us as we avoid extremes and walk in humility, truth, and grace.

## 11. Prayer

- Closing in prayer for guidance, humility, and the courage to live out God's truth in grace.