

Lecture 6
Christian Apologetics
Pastor Munawar Khurshid

Welcome, and today we have our second lecture on Christian Apologetics. Please participate and learn so that you can also be blessed through this. We have learned many references from the Holy Bible and many truths about how we can be a blessing to others when they ask questions. We have learned how to answer them, what our attitude should be, what words we should use, and how we can engage them so that we can also share God's Word with them, give testimony, and people can accept the Lord's presence. Amen.

Today will be the last lecture on this subject. After this, there will be a final exam on this subject, and then we will start a new subject, New Testament Survey, which will be a very blessed subject. I have told you before that this subject is very important to study for all four classes.

Let us read from the Holy Scriptures for guidance, from the Gospel written by the Apostle Matthew, New Testament, Chapter 7, first six verses:

“Do not judge, so that you will not be judged. For with the same measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not notice the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the plank in your own eye? 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. Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.”

Here is an important question many people discuss: Should we judge ministers, pastors, or our leadership? Is it right or wrong to think negatively or comment about them?

There are two views:

1. Some believe that because they are God's servants, no one has the right to speak badly or criticize them.
2. The second view is that many people criticize God's servants strongly and point out their weaknesses.

Today, we will learn what we should do. Should we criticize or not? Should we judge or not?

In the first verse of chapter seven, Lord Jesus Christ said, “Do not judge.” My question is, should we judge others or not?

Some say we should not judge, saying the Word says do not judge or criticize, and that we cannot judge. Some say when we point out someone's character flaws, that is judging.

On the other hand, the Holy Bible also says, “Rebuke a sinner publicly so others can learn.” So we need to understand this and explain when something is wrong and needs correction.

It is not wrong to test or examine, but judging others morally is wrong.

Today we will learn when and how we should decide, when we should lovingly and wisely correct others instead of just criticizing them.

Many people on social media say we should not judge. Today, we will discuss this topic.

In the Holy Bible, both teachings exist — one place says do not judge, and another teaches us to recognize and correct wrongs.

Let us understand this deeply and learn how we should act in the light of the Lord.

Now, this passage you all know is part of the Sermon on the Mount. The background is that the Lord Jesus was criticizing the Pharisees and teachers of the law, who used different ways to show they were righteous and pushed others down, saying they were not clean or good enough.

God's Word here guides us. The Lord Jesus is talking about these people who thought they were better and judged others.

Many references confirm this, like in the Gospel written by John the Apostle, Chapter 7, verse 24:

“Do not judge by appearances, but judge with righteous judgment.”

What did they do? They judged by what they saw on the outside. Like you know, when Samuel came to Jesse's house to anoint the king, he looked at the oldest son first because he was tall and handsome. But God said, “Do not look at his height, for I do not see as man sees.”

But the Pharisees judged people by their outward appearance only. They did not look inside or judge rightly.

Like in the Gospel written by Luke, Chapter 18, verse 9 also guides us. If you have a Bible, please look. Verse 9 says:

Then He said about some people, who trusted in themselves saying, "Who are we? We are righteous," and what did they do with others? They considered them worthless.

This means this culture was present here, and this way of thinking was common here. Because of this, the Lord Jesus also told a parable about a tax collector. If you look from the 11th verse in the same chapter, the 18th chapter, it says:

"The Pharisee stood and prayed like this to himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.'"

So what is he doing? He is comparing himself with the tax collector and saying that he is righteous, he gives tithes, he keeps the Sabbath holy, he does all the tithe works, and thanks God that he is not like that person—the tax collector—whom he hates and looks down on.

Because they said this tax collector took God's people's money and gave it to the Roman government, so they hated him a lot and considered him very low. And if they wanted to call someone a sinner, they would call him a tax collector. That means to them, "tax collector" and "sinner" were the same. If they

wanted to call someone a sinner, it meant they could also call him a tax collector.

So these people, the Jewish scribes, Pharisees, experts in the law, treated others like this and kept trying to prove their own righteousness.

Now in this context, the Lord Jesus said "Do not judge" or "Do not find fault"—Do not judge others, do not criticize others.

So it is easier for us to understand the word "judge" as "Do not judge others."

But in what context is this being said? It is about the context where you think you are better than others, and others are less than you.

In this context, do not compare yourself with others, do not see them as lower than you or lowly.

Rather it says: "Do not judge" – or "Do not judge others." Amen.

Now it is very important for us to understand that when the Bible says "Do not judge," it is said in this context.

But on the other side, there are many people—who may be here or elsewhere—who distort God's teachings and distort the Word of God.

I mean many false teachings and many people who do not teach according to God's Word, do not teach correctly according to God's Word, or interpret and explain God's Word wrongly.

If you look at the same chapter we are reading from the Gospel written by Apostle Matthew, chapter seven, verse fifteen, what does it say?

Yes, let me read it myself.

In verse fifteen it says:

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."

So this is from the same chapter, not from somewhere else. The Lord Jesus is not in some other place. The same chapter, the same place, and the same person who is sharing or speaking.

So remember, here the Lord Jesus Christ is not saying that you should not judge those who are doing wrong.

Or that if your leaders are not sincere with God's Word, not honest with God's Word, or do not teach God's teachings honestly, or do not explain God's theology correctly to you, you should not judge them. Absolutely not. Are you understanding?

"Do not judge" here is only talking about character. It means do not think of yourself as very holy or righteous and then look down on others and judge them.

But if someone does not teach according to God's Word, or teaches against God's Word, or teaches something related to heresy, then what does the Bible say? We just read in verse 15: "Beware of false prophets! Be careful of false prophets! They come to you dressed as sheep, but inside they are wolves."

These false teachers will say sweet words, and you will think they are true servants. But the Word says they are wolves. Wolves who are hurting the church, tearing it apart, harming the sheep in many ways. They do not care for the sheep; they are harmful to them.

So here the Lord Jesus Christ did not say "Do not judge" about the servants or leaders. Instead, the Word of God guides us to judge if they are teaching correctly or not. Just don't become a

follower of a person because they have a big name, a big church, many people, money, cars, or protocol. That is not the standard at all.

What is the standard? God's Word! How honest are they with God's Word? How honest are they in explaining and interpreting God's Word? Are they telling stories using God's Word as a cover? If yes, then we should stay away from them. Beware!

And also in 1 Corinthians 1:8 (first chapter, eighth verse) Paul says: "But if even we or an angel from heaven preach to you a gospel other than what we preached to you, let them be cursed." What? They are cursed!

If someone teaches any story other than the true Bible truths and theology we shared, then that person is cursed. The Word of God teaches this very clearly.

In 2 Corinthians, chapter 11, verse 4, Paul also teaches that if someone comes preaching another Jesus or another spirit or another gospel, which you did not accept, you should not tolerate them. Very clear teaching from Paul.

Hebrews 5:14 also talks about the same idea.

So the "Do not judge" Jesus said means do not judge others because you think you are more righteous or better than them, amen?

In Ephesians chapter 4, verse 14, it says that we should not remain children, easily fooled by tricks and lies. The number one trick is deception and number two is hypocrisy — acting one way outside and being different inside.

What does it say? That we should not easily follow the false teachings and be like waves moving here and there.

This means there are false leaders, pastors, and servants in the world who deceive people. The church must not stay innocent but wake up and be aware.

There are many pastors and teachers—some teach correctly and some teach wrongly, deceive people, cheat, and live hypocritical lives. The church must be alert and understand this.

Remember, if you feel that a servant or pastor is not teaching correctly or their behavior is wrong, then as a believer you should separate yourself from them, keep your distance, and go where true teaching is given.

We should be more careful and wise in spiritual life, just like we choose good schools and hospitals for our children's physical health. But often for spiritual sickness, we go to unqualified people who cannot give real healing. So be wise and don't compromise in spiritual teaching and doctrine.

Both the Old and New Testaments teach us that we should not tolerate the wrong actions of our brothers but warn and correct them so we don't fall into sin ourselves.

Love does not mean we tolerate wrong teaching or actions, but true love means standing for the truth and opposing heresy and wrong teaching.

Paul says in Romans that those who cause divisions and make others stumble should be watched and avoided. Our standard should always be God's Word so that we can know right and wrong teaching.

Heresies are growing in Pakistan and other places because people are innocent and unaware. So the church must wake up and protect the true teaching.

