

A Sermon on the False Narrative that "Christians Don't Judge"

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for January 3rd, 2021 (and beyond)

Many false prophets claim that "Christians don't judge" while simultaneously critically judging the judgments of others in regards to the critic that judges the judgment without honest reason while being intellectually dishonest proving their hypocrisy or lack of Christian understanding (AKA discernment). The passage that is used out of context to demand that others refrain from discernment (judging the rightness/righteousness or wrongness/sinfulness of an act or multiple acts) is Matthew 7:1-3.

Matthew 7:1-3 (KJV): "Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

Matthew 7:1-3 (Wycliffe): "Nile ye deme, 'that ye be not demed; for in what doom ye demen, 2 ye schulen be demed, and in what mesure ye meten, it schal be meten ayen to you. 3. But what seest thou a litil mote in the iye of thi brother, and seest not a beam in thin owne iye?" [Rev. Smith translation from Middle English to Modern English: "Deem not, that ye be not deemed; for in what doom you deem, you shall be deemed, and in what measure you mete, it shall be measured against you. When you see a little mote in the eye of your brother, and ignore the beam in your own eye you are a hypocrite."

So, here's a brief morality play script to give you an idea so you can spot the false prophets with the false narrative who are being manipulative and intellectually dishonest hoping to trick the superstitiously inclined into being afraid to judge wrongdoing while automatically forgiving it without sincere repentance by the wrongdoer nor any amends at all because false prophets like to get away with criminal activity and take the bible out of context for such purposes.

SCRIPT:

Co-Dependent Follower: The youth pastor raped my son. Reverend, what should I do?

Narcissistic False Prophet: Forgive it. There is no rape. That judgment is for God alone to decide. Remember, Jesus said "thou shall not judge lest ye face God's wrath and judgment". A good Christian forgives with a generous heart.

Co-Dependent Follower: Should I report it to law enforcement then?

Narcissistic False Prophet: Absolutely not. The church is a sanctuary. What happens in church stays in church. Only God can judge. You are recognizing false authority and putting human government above God while tempting God's wrath if you go to the secular government with these allegations.

Co-Dependent Follower: So, if I seek justice for my son on earth, God will punish me?

Narcissistic False Prophet: That's not for me to say. The Bible, written by God himself, does so say that if you judge others then God will judge you and punish your wickedness in assuming authority to judge which is God's alone.

Co-Dependent Follower: So, it's a risky move then and may or may not result in God's wrath if I seek justice for my son?

Narcissistic False Prophet: Ask yourself, where were you when your son was raped? The secular government says you are the legal guardian and responsible for protecting him from all sorts of "unlawful" harms. They expect you to exercise due diligence and be a good shepherd for your son protecting him from all evil. It is your failure to do so that resulted in his alleged rape.

Co-Dependent Follower: So, I could go to jail for failing to protect my child from an unknown or unexpected threat if I report it? My son's rape is my fault. I should know better than to trust false prophets. But, how do you know?

Narcissistic False Prophet: The government tricks you and says they can help, but, they can't. They tell you there are laws and a whole system of justice that is evidence-based. But, they just want you to turn yourself in so they can punish you. They assume authority that in Christianity only belongs to God and no one else. The government is the biggest false prophet of them all. You cannot serve two masters. You serve God in Good Faith or Man in the material world. Are you a servant of God or Man?

Co-Dependent Follower: I serve God. That makes me a good Christian, right?

Narcissistic False Prophet: Exactly, I'd say that makes you a good Christian. It seems like you are struggling. Would it help if I waived the tithing for your family for a year, how about for life? You'll get all the church with none of the tithing because of your continued good faith.

Co-Dependent Follower: You'd do that? Thank you. Bless you. See you next Sunday.

That's right, I've now said that too. And, if you've seen the bylaws at <https://www.cope.church/bylaws.pdf>, you understand how COPE is different.

The rule is no prejudice and to judge justly, honestly, and fairly in consideration of full context. That's my understanding of it in full context which says judge others by the same measure you judge yourself. So, where you say "I'd never rape a child and I can't imagine ever doing so" then you have judged yourself as virtuous enough to avoid raping children. So, when you meet someone who has raped or would rape a child you can recognize that as something you'd never do that is vicious and of the deadly vices too. Lust and vanity are deadly vices. So, that suggests the death penalty may be appropriate in some cases where both of those vices are present. Thankfully, there is a justice system in place that can hold people accountable for their crimes against humanity and give them an arguable preview of the hereafter if that's their choice. I've always considered prison

to be hell-adjacent. What I do like about the US Justice system is it is merciful to those who are willing to confess when they know they are guilty so they don't unnecessarily burden the system with a trial where they are guilty and know it and beyond a reasonable doubt is a really difficult standard to meet even when you know who committed a crime and have circumstantial evidence supporting the allegations. Our US system would rather set the guilty free than imprison the innocent. But, people with no faith in the system often forfeit because they are psyched out by their own prejudices.

If you judge me and I think you aren't as judgmental of yourself, I'll judge you back pretty harshly too. But, if you approach knowing your own likely ignorance and capacity for error in terms of any given situation or individual, but, still recognize wrong and offer correction with willingness to be corrected yourself, you are not a hypocrite and a true Christian (and/or) of Good Faith.

When people excuse their own misconduct without apology, repentance, and amends while condemning your discernment, they are false prophets and hypocrites. They are what Jesus warned us all to avoid. Happy New Year!

For those interested in starting #TaoFu Self-Defense Exercises, please see <https://www.cope.church/taofu.htm> and begin at any time.

There are opportunities to send messages, receive mystery bonus blessings, and more with or without donating available now on our "Pass the Basket" page at <https://www.cope.church/basket.htm> . Thank You.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 KJV Willful blindness is an abomination.

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm> . For the sake of keeping myself and others humble, a sense of humor is welcome on all sides.

For More About COPE and the HEAL Mission, see:

<https://www.cope.church> and <https://www.heal-online.org>