

Matthew 7:1-1-12

How legalistic religion goes wrong:

1) Judgmental hypocrisy

(v1-6)

2) Prayerless independence

(v7-11)

3) Narrow selfishness

(v12)

For further discussion

- How are both Christians and non-Christians easily guilty of legalism and self-righteousness?
- How does our culture interpret Jesus' words in 7:1? What are they missing about what Jesus actually says?
- How should v1-6 affect the way we engage with the world around us and with our friends, both Christian and non-Christian?
- v7-11: Why do we struggle with persistence in prayer? How do both pride and despair lead to prayerlessness? Which do you struggle with more, or is it both?
- How does God's character determine the way we pray to him? Do you have a false view of our father and how he hears your prayers? What can you do to help with that?
- What is the difference between Jesus' golden rule in v12 and the way we so often conduct our lives? Where and when do you think this would be hardest? Why?
- What is the remedy for legalism and self-righteousness? How does the rest of the Sermon on the Mount help us with that?