

# John 7:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

## Analysis

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Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment. Jesus calls for proper discernment. 'Judge not according to appearance' (mē krinete kat' opsin) warns against superficial evaluation based on surface-level observations. The imperative 'judge righteous judgment' (tēn dikaian krisin krinate) commands evaluation based on truth, justice, and divine revelation. This doesn't forbid judgment (contrary to misuse of Matthew 7:1) but commands righteous judgment. Reformed theology emphasizes that Christians must discern truth from error, right from wrong, based on Scripture, not human tradition or cultural bias. The authorities judged Jesus's Sabbath healing by their traditions rather than by God's law and heart.

## Historical Context

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First-century Judaism valued external conformity—ritual purity, Sabbath observance, food laws. Jesus consistently challenged this, emphasizing heart transformation over external compliance (Matthew 23:25-28). The Pharisees judged 'according to appearance'—Jesus healed on Sabbath, therefore He's a sinner. Righteous judgment would recognize healing reveals divine compassion and Christ's authority. Early church conflicts over circumcision, food laws, and holy days required 'righteous judgment' based on gospel priorities, not cultural traditions (Acts 15, Galatians 2).

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What is the difference between forbidden judging (Matthew 7:1) and commanded righteous judgment?
2. How do we evaluate people and situations by truth rather than appearances?
3. What role does Scripture play in forming righteous judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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μὴ	κρίνατε	κατ'	ὅψιν	ἀλλὰ	τὴν	δικαίαν
not	Judge	according to	the appearance	but	G3588	righteous
G3361	G2919	G2596	G3799	G235		G1342

κρίσιν	κρίνατε
judgment	Judge
G2920	G2919

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 17:15** (Righteousness): He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.

**John 8:15** (Judgment): Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

**James 2:9** (Parallel theme): But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

**James 2:1** (Parallel theme): My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

**Proverbs 24:23** (Judgment): These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

**James 2:4** (Judgment): Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

**Leviticus 19:15** (Righteousness): Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.

**Isaiah 5:23** (Righteousness): Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!

**Psalms 82:2** (Righteousness): How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah.

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