

May 15, 2016

## **JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS**

*Pat Cowden*

Jesus said, "Do not judge according to appearances, but judge with righteous judgment." (John 7:24) The word "righteous" here means "fair or just". This verse has two commands: "do not judge" and "judge". We are commanded to "judge". But, equally so, we are commanded to engage in a specific kind of judgment. It is to be a judgment that rests on a fair assessment of evidence. **God is extremely critical of the hypocritical.**

To judge unrighteously is to be "hypocritical" (Matthew 7:1-5).

To judge unrighteously is to be "unmerciful" (Luke 6:36-37)

To judge unrighteously is to be an extremist or "radical" (Romans 14:1ff).

To judge unrighteously is to be involved in something "evil" (James 4:11-12).

To judge unrighteously is to be "judgmental" based on appearances (John 7:24).

May we never be guilty of being unrighteous in our judgments because "jumping to conclusions" will "land us in trouble" with our God.

God bless, Pat