

## Messy People Loving with Boundaries

1. Read Matthew 7:1-2. The word for Judge used here is “krino”, it means to condemn. The word used for judgement is “krima” which means to pass a sentence of condemnation or damnation for a crime. What do you think Jesus means when he says, “do not judge.”?
2. Read Matthew 7:6. Right after Jesus says not to judge, he classifies people into 2 categories. What are the categories he uses? What type of person do you think Jesus is describing when he uses the word dog and pig?
3. Read Proverbs 26:11, Psalm 22:16, Philippians 3:2, Revelation 22:15. How do these verses describe dogs? In what ways do wicked people often act like dogs?
4. What does the last part of Matthew 7:6 say a dog will do to a person who feeds them? Have you ever encountered someone like this? How did you handle the situation? How do you think Jesus would have handled this person?
5. Jesus says don't give dog-like people “what is holy”. What is holy? Why shouldn't we carelessly toss what is holy to people like this?
6. Read Leviticus 11:7, Proverbs 11:22, 2 Peter 2:22. What do these verses tell us about pigs? What type of people could be described as pig-like? According to Matthew 7:6, how do pigs treat that which is valuable?
7. Read Matthew 13:45-46. Some commentators believe the “pearl of great price” represents you and I and the merchant who sold all that he had to buy it, represents Jesus. Have you ever thought of yourself as a “pearl”? How do people who are acting like “pigs” treat pearls?
8. What does Job 28:18 say about wisdom? How do people who are acting like “pigs” treat wisdom?
9. Jesus goes on to say in Matthew 7:15-20 to beware of people who look like “sheep” (people who follow Jesus the Good Shephard) but act like wolves. He says you will know who a true sheep is by the way they Live (act, do), not by what they call themselves or how they appear on the outside. What's the difference between “inspecting the fruit” that is growing in a person's life and “judging” them in a condemning way?
10. Did you know that it is wise to “inspect” people's actions and then decide how to deal with them in response to their actions? Are there any people you know who are currently acting like a dog, pig, or wolf? If so, what do you think Jesus wants you to do in the situation? Share if you feel comfortable.