

“Understanding Judging”

Introduction

1. No doubt you have heard people say “Who am I to judge?” or “We are not to Judge another.” I have even heard it said “we should not bind our way on someone else or judge them for the way they believe.”
 - A. With these statements most mean that they will not condemn anyone of anything because they think that they do not have the right to pass judgment on anyone.
 - 1) Most come to this understanding because of the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:1 which says, “Judge not, that you be not judged.”
2. Is that right? Do Christians not have a right to judge another?
3. I believe that the confusion over whether we can or cannot judge comes from a lack of proper understanding of what judging is and how we are or are not to judge another.

Judging Chart – No one really believes judging is wrong!

4. In the Bible there are at least three different kinds of Judgment. These include:
 - A. Hypocritical Judgment
 - B. Judgment based on Man’s Opinion
 - C. Righteous Judgment
 - 1) In this morning’s lesson we are going to touch on each of these three types of Judging as it relates to one another.

Hypocritical

1. **Hypocritical judgment is sinful. Jesus speaks of this type of judgment.**
Matthew 7:1-5
2. **Here Jesus is not condemning all judging, just hypocritical judging.**
 - A. **Verse 2 shows us that judgment goes two ways in that it goes toward another person and then it comes back to us.**
 - B. **Jesus' point:** A person is expected to uphold and practice in his own life the same judgment that he would apply to another person's life.
 - 1) **If one is not willing to live up to the standards that they place on themselves, then do not use those same standards to judge another:** *"Judge not, that you be not judged."*
3. **Jesus is not condemning the concern or judgment for the "speck."**
 - A. **In verses 3-4 Jesus is condemning the judgmental attitude that does not apply the same standard of judgment to our own life and therefore we overlook our own faults.**
4. **The remedy:**
 - A. **Hypocrite!** *"First remove the plank from your own eye, and THEN you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye"*
 - 1) **There is nothing wrong with trying to remove a "speck" from our brother's eye as long as we are not guilty with the same "specks" of sin in our own life.**

Gal 6:1-2 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

James 5:19-20 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

**B. This same principal was pointed out by the apostle Paul:
Romans 2:1-3, 21-24**

Opinions

1. **The Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul informs us that we must be careful in judging another based solely upon opinion. These passages of scripture have nothing to do with matters of doctrine.**

Romans 14:3-9

- A. **Since God has received him, he is then considered to be God's servant, and his accountability is not to you, but to God.**

- 1) **In spite of what some may think is an error, he shall stand, for God is able to keep him. This conduct shall not cut him off from the grace of God in which we all stand.**

2. **Later in verse 10, he goes on to say:**

Romans 14:10

- A. **The idea is that he judges him because he believes he is restricted in what he can eat, or believes he has an obligation in honoring one day above another. However, God has welcomed both.**

3. **This thought is expressed by Paul in Colossians 2:16-17:**

Col 2:16-17 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

- A. **The old law was nailed to the cross, and therefore let no one compel (judge) you to keep its ordinances.**

4. **We are not to judge those things which are only matters of opinion.**

- A. **Don't be judgmental or condemning toward one another pertaining to matters that are indifferent in the Lord.**

Romans 14:13

Righteous

1. Jesus clearly stated that we ARE to judge righteous judgment:

John 7:24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

Luke 12:57 "Yes, and why, even of yourselves, do you not judge what is right?

2. Jesus will judge all of mankind by His word. His word tells us what is right and what is wrong. We must abide in His word in order to be saved.

John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

John 15:6-7 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

A. God did not give man a plan of salvation in order to be saved, and instructions by which to live by, so that He can change them later.

1) **God cannot lie** - The truth of God shall make us free **Titus 1:1-3**

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

3. Shortly before his death, Paul wrote concerning the "righteous judge."

2 Tim 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing (*When we love - we obey Jn 14:15*).

Chart – Examples of Righteous Judgment

Conclusion

1. **Christians are to live their lives in accordance with the will of God**
Titus 2:11-12; Matt 7:21

2. **When we are doing this, then we are able to judge with “righteous judgment,” that which we have been instructed to do in accordance with the word of God.**

3. **A failure to do this makes us hypocrites, applying teaching and judgment to others but not to ourselves.**

4. **May we all be determined to live a life of service to God, teaching others to do the same**
Matthew 28:18-20

Invitation

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