

Judging Others

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Judging is a big subject, isn't it? Do we have the right to do it? If so, when, and to what degree of judgment should we do? Some people try to judge everything and everyone, while some think that we can't say that anything is wrong. Whether we should, or shouldn't, it seems that almost everyone is doing it. With this subject, as with all others, the best thing to do is to see what God's Word has to say about it.

Sometimes the confusion is caused by too little knowledge of the scriptures. For instance in **Matthew 7:1** Jesus said, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." Then in **John 7:24** he said, "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." To some, this is a conflict, or an error, and they doubt the accuracy of the Bible. If we look at the whole picture and not get hung up on a verse the truth becomes clear.

Eternal judgment, the judgment of the soul, is God's right and his alone. No man has the authority, knowledge, and the power to make

such a judgment, only the Lord has. Only God can permit a person to enter heaven, or to be cast into hell. Thank God that such power is not left to man!

Romans 2:1-3, "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?" As these verses show, we are all in need of God's forgiveness, and all have come short of God's righteousness. Each of us needs to have the blood of Jesus to wash away our sins. Consider the Pharisee and the publican in **Luke 18:9-14**. The Pharisee counted the publican as a worthless sinner, unworthy of God's mercy. He judged him while thinking of how good he was himself. Yet, Jesus condemned his pride and justified the true repentant sinner who had faith.

Romans 14:4, "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for

God is able to make him stand. God said that the humble publican was accepted while the prideful Pharisee was not."

If anyone does something that God says is a sin, then it is wrong. That is true no matter who it may be. If I do something wrong, and sorry to say, but I have, it is wrong. I have had to go to the Lord too many times and tell him that I let my anger, or some other sin, get the better of me. Now if you can't identify with that, you're only fooling yourself. **1 John 1:8**, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." While a Christian may err he will not live in error and accept sin as a normal way of life.

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and was used of God in a mighty way, yet erred. In **Galatians 2:11-15** Paul rebuked Peter before the brethren because he let his fear of the Jews cause him to offend some of the believers. He repented, that's what a Christian will do. If someone does something that is wrong, talk to that person, and pray for him that he might get forgiveness from God. Remember do unto others as you would have them do unto you. **Luke 6:31**, "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."

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