

## Judge righteously (Godly counsel)

**Sound judgment will be based on multiple factors together** - John 7:24 - Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."

**Jesus shows us the key to judging righteously** - John 5:30 - By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

**We must know where a person is at before we can judge how far they've come –**

Mark 12:41-44 - 41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. 43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this **poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.** 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on."

Luke 10:13-15 - 13 "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. 15 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths.

**HOW we judge will affect HOW we are judged –**

Matt 7:1-2 - "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Rom 2:1-4 - You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. 2 Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. 3 So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? 4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

**We must make sure we can see before helping others to see** - Matt 7:3-5 - 3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and THEN you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

**This parable shows the elements used in Godly judgment** - Matt 25:14-30 - 14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. 15 To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. 17 So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. 18 But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' 21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' 22 "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' 23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' 24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' 26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.' 28 "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- What your God given ability is
- How much you are responsible for
- What you do with what you have.

**Salvation is going to be hard for some because of WHAT they are** - Matt 19:23-24 - 23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

**Judgment will also be based on how much we have** - Luke 12:47-48 - 47 "That servant who KNOWS HIS MASTER'S WILL and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. 48 But the one WHO DOES NOT KNOW and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From **everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded;** and from the one **who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.**

**Christians are required to walk in EVERYONE ELSE'S shoes** - 1 Cor 9:19-23 - 19 Though I am free and belong to no man, **I MAKE MYSELF A SLAVE TO EVERYONE**, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. **I HAVE BECOME ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN SO THAT BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS I MIGHT SAVE SOME**. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

\*This process is not an excuse creator but a Locator

**When judging we must take many factors into consideration** - 1 Tim 5:9-15 - 9 No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, 10 and is well known for her good deeds, such as *bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds*. 11 As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. 12 Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. 13 Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to. 14 So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. 15 Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.

- Age
- Integrity
- Responsibility

**\*(wrong judgment could hurt the person being judge, even when you mean well)**

**How we judge others is what we define where we are with God** - James 1:27 - Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

**God is serious with how we treat the less fortunate**

**God describes human nature towards the poor** - Prov 14:20 - The poor are shunned even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends.

**Treatment of the poor and needy defines our relationship with God** - Prov 14:31 - He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

**How we treat the poor will dictate how we are treated** - Prov 21:13 - If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.

**The poor are defined by those who are making an effort** - 2 Thess 3:10 - For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

**Keep in mind a major flaw in or judging is how we judge ourselves** - 2 Cor 10:12-14 - 12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, **they are not wise**. 13 We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will **confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us**, a field that reaches even to you.

## STEPS TO JUDGING RIGHTEOUSLY

**Truly rely on God** - Prov 2:1-11 - My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 **THEN you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God**. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, 8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. 9 **THEN you will understand what is right and just and fair — every good path**. 10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. 11 Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

**We must first righteously judge ourselves**

**God set the standard we are to measure by...nothing more, nothing less** - Rom 12:3-5 - 3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

**We need to constantly check our walk** - 2 Cor 13:5 - **Examine yourselves** to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you — unless, of course, you fail the test?

**After checking ourselves make adjustments with our relationship with God** - Lam 3:40 - Let us examine our ways and test them, and **let us return to the Lord**.

**We must take the time and have the patience to gather the entire book and not just the cover** - James 1:19-20 -19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

**Listen - akouo** (ak-oo'-o); to hear (in various senses): (give (in the) audience (of), come (to the ears), ([shall]) hear (-er, -ken), be noised, be reported, understand.

**Let God provide the definition and act accordingly** - Ps 82:3-4 - **Defend** the cause of the weak and fatherless; **maintain** the rights of the poor and oppressed. 4 **Rescue** the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

**You can never be the purpose or foundation of your judgment** - Phil 2:3-4 - 3 **DO NOTHING** out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but **in humility** consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**The Godly purpose to judge others has to be for their Godly benefit** - Rom 15:2 - 2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

**Know the difference between indisputable and disputable decisions** - Rom 14:1-4 - Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. 2 One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3 The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. 4 **Who are you to judge someone else's servant?** To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

**We have to take their position into consideration with judgment** - Titus 3:1-2 - Remind the people to **be subject to rulers** and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, 2 to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.

**We must take their role into consideration** - 1 Peter 3:7 - 7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

**Before you judge anyone make sure you are always in the right spiritual state of mind** - 1 Peter 3:8 - 8 Finally, **all of you**, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

homophon (hom-of'-rone); like-minded, i.e. harmonious: (of one mind.)

umpathes (soom-path-ace') having a fellow-feeling ("sympathetic"), i.e. (by implication) mutually commiserative:

philadelphos (fil-ad'-el-fos) fond of brethren, i.e. fraternal: (love as brethren.)

eusplagchnos (yoo'-splangkhn-nos) well compassionated, i.e. sympathetic: ( pitiful, tender-hearted.)

apeinophon (tap-i-no'-frohn) found only in 1 Peter 3:8: humble, humble-minded.

**Look at what God looks at not what man looks at** - 1 Sam 16:7 - 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

**A good question to ask before any judgment is what if circumstances were different** - Job 1:8-11 - 8 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." 9 **"DOES JOB FEAR GOD FOR NOTHING?"** Satan replied. 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

**Don't let your fleshly opinion trump what God says** - Ex 4:10-17 - 10 Moses said to the Lord, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." 11 **The Lord said** to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." 13 But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it." 14 Then the Lord's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and his heart will be glad when he sees you. 15 You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. 16 He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. 17 But take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it."

**Be in complete agreement with God** - John 8:15-18 - 15 **You judge by human standards**; I pass judgment on no one. 16 But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. I STAND WITH THE FATHER, WHO SENT ME. 17 In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two men is valid. 18 I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me."