

To Judge Or Not to ...

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was years later that the preacher's "prophecy" came true, and the television evangelist was exposed and jailed. Because his doctrine was wrong, his spiritual fruit was also bad.

Discern that not everyone that says they are a Christian are Christians.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, ... and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. "Matthew 7:21-23

The liberals and Holy Spirit-convicted would certainly like to shut off any discernment against their wrong doing, but as the above verse tells us; Jesus lets the truth be known. Not every one that says he is a Christian is one. If the world were to recognize this, and purpose to really live for God, there would be fewer godless religions and their church doors soon would close.

We are to discern: determine right from wrong. The next time Matthew 7 is hurled at you, and you are only discerning a spiritual matter in a spirit of helpfulness and not hinderance, continue to show them what the Lord wants them to discern. If we do not tell them the truth according to God's word, who will?

The Two "Don'ts"

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thing, says not to be high-minded about the things He has given. A man with good apparel and position comes in, and we say, "You sit here." That's fine, but if we treat someone not wearing the very best any less, God says, "That is despicable in My sight." What triggered that was highminded thinking.

2. Don't Trust in Uncertain Riches


"... nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" I Timothy 6:17b

All riches on this earth are uncertain. They are never given, only entrusted. Our lives are uncertain as well. One brain aneurysm, and you may never talk again. One little stroke, and you can't stand up. We don't know what tomorrow holds. That's why we sing that great song, "I don't know about tomorrow, but I know Who holds tomorrow."

Riches are always uncertain. God reminds us not to trust in riches, because we are not made up of what we have. It was a tragedy in the 1920's when the stock market crashed. People committed suicide because they thought they had lost themselves, not just their money. God says all these riches are uncertain; they can come and go.

*If your riches are yours,
why can't you take them
with you to t'other world?
— Benjamin Franklin*

The Bible View



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To Judge Or Not to Judge

Bill Brinkworth

One of the most abused verses against a discerning or a reproofing Christian is Matthew 7:1. As soon as the one being rebuked senses a little conviction, the verse is usually misquoted ("Judge not or you will be judged"), to thwart the reproof. When the Bible verse (even if it is misquoted) is heard, the Christian, who is usually only trying to share what the Bible says about the subject, silences his discussion as he



does not want to appear to be in error or sin also. What really does the Bible say about judging?

"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete [mete means measure], it shall be measured to you again."

Matthew 7:1,2

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The Two "Don'ts"

*Dr. David Gibbs in the
Legal Alert – 10/2007*

1. Don't be Highminded

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded.: I Timothy 6:17a

"Highminded" is a very specific word. It means we think we're something because of what we have. "Well, if I had a car like that, a house like that, a boat like that" — those are high-minded thoughts, and God forbids them. You are not what you possess. The real value of you only becomes clear when all your possessions are taken away. That's the real you. Don't think you're something because of how much you make or the position you hold. Lester Roloff once told me, "David, be careful or you'll start to believe the introductions, and both you and God know better." Don't get highminded.

You and I have no talents apart from what God has given us. He gives us every breath we take. God, who gave us every-

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We learn here that if we are harshly or unjustly critical about others, we will be judged accordingly. No one wants to be strictly judged by a perfect God for our weaknesses. We want our sins to be overlooked. We should do the same with the faults of others.

When I was young, I remember my mother's rebuking me for being critical of others. She brought out that what I was most critical about was what I had the most problem with myself. I carefully observed that many times in my life, when I was critical, she was right. The following Bible verses shed some truth on what my mother taught me:

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and behold, a beam is in thine own eye?" Matthew 7:3-4.

We need to keep our own hypocrisy to ourselves as Matthew 7:5 reminds us: *"Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."* Many times those that are the most critical have the most sin! We need to judge ourselves and our own doings!

Matthew Henry, an 18th cen-

tury Bible commentator said about the previous verse very eloquently: "We must not sit in judgment-seat, to make our word a law to everybody. We must not judge our brother, that is, we must not speak evil of him ... We must not judge rashly, nor pass such a judgment upon our brother as has no ground, but is only the product of our own jealousy and ill nature. We must not make the worst of people, nor infer such insidious things from their words and actions as they will not bear. We must not judge uncharitably, unmercifully, nor with a spirit of revenge, and a desire to do mischief. We must not judge of a man's state by a single act, nor of what he is in himself by what he is to us, because in our own cause we are apt to be partial. We must not judge the hearts of others, not their intentions, for it is God's prerogative to try the heart, and we must not step into his throne; ..." Many times it is not our business to judge.

Sometimes our judgments are prejudiced or wrong. Many times I have made a judgment against a person or a situation, only to find that I had only half of the story. Usually, it was the wrong half!

"He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."
Proverbs 18:13

Although we are not to judge

people, we are to judge doctrine. "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things ..." I Corinthians 2:15. Is the Bible contradicting itself? Of course not! God is the ultimate judge of people, but we with the help of the Holy Spirit illuminating the truth of the Word of God, are to discern spiritual things. God wants us to be able to tell right from wrong.

After Jesus tells us in the previous verses not to judge, he tells us in following verses in which areas we are to discern. People twist the truth around to shut the Holy Spirit's conviction out. Liberals many times have the unbiblically knowledgeable Christians so afraid to stand up and judge what is not of God, that they do not. One of the reasons so much sin is going on in this world today, is because Christians are afraid to speak out.

According to the scriptures, we are to:

Discern what is clean and unclean. Discern what is of God and what is not. Ungodly living and blasphemers are to be discerned and kept away from: "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." Matthew 7:6

The dogs and swine spoken of here were understood by the Jews as ceremoniously unclean and lowly creatures. Jesus gave them a graphic picture of what Jesus thought of the ungodly and blasphemers.

Discern false teachers. If

their lives do not line up with the scriptures; they are wrong. "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Matthew 7:15

The first ones to holler, "Don't judge me," are many times the false preachers. The ones that are doing unbiblical things or living unbiblically need to be exposed. We are to discern, warn, and stay clear of those wolves!

Discern false teaching. If the teachings are not from the Word of God, then they are not of God, and they will not produce anything good.

"Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them ..." Matthew 7:16-20

We can easily discern what is of God and what is not of God, because if it is not of God, it will bring forth rotten spiritual fruit. A preacher I know warned the congregation of a television preacher of the past. He urged people not to support him, as the preacher was not teaching doctrine as it was taught in the Bible. Many members got upset and left the church over that matter. It

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**When looking for faults; use a mirror
and not a telescope!**

