

SHOULD CHRISTIANS JUDGE?

HOW OFTEN DO WE HEAR THE PHRASE "JUDGE NOT LEST YE BE JUDGED!" THIS BIT OF `WISDOM' IS SPROUTED BY CHRISTIAN AND NON CHRISTIAN ALIKE AND GENERALLY SPOKEN AS A BLANKET DEFENSE AGAINST ANYTHING.

AS WITH A LOT OF SAYINGS THAT CAN BE TRACED BACK TO THE BIBLE, THERE IS A BASIS FOR THEM HOWEVER THEY ARE MISAPPLIED.

FOR EXAMPLE ALL RELIGIOUS HERESIES AND CULTS CAN SHOW YOU WITH CHAPTER AND VERSE WHAT THEY BELIEVE.

SATAN WON'T USE ANYTHING ELSE OTHER THAN THE BIBLE TO STATE HIS CLAIMS SO MERELY QUOTING FROM THE BIBLE DOESN'T MAKE IT RIGHT.

"STUDY TO SHEW THYSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD..." (2 Timothy 2:15). THIS WORD "STUDY" CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN THE KING JAMES BIBLE - ALL THE REST HAVE "do your best ...be diligent ...try hard..." so it is no wonder that readers of these versions generally support "Judge not!" Their Bibles don't tell them to study God's word.

WE SHALL SEE THAT NOT ONLY IS IT CORRECT FOR A CHRISTIAN
TO
JUDGE. BUT THE CHRISTIAN IS
SINNING BY NOT JUDGING!

BELIEVE WHAT YOU WILL, THEN
SEARCH THE BIBLE TO SUPPORT THAT POSITION

Isn't it funny - everyone's read the bible but no-one knows what's in it? You can ask anyone about what they believe on any topic and they'll tell you. They may be right or wrong but it doesn't seem to matter all that much. Most people believe what they want to believe. How does the old saying go - "Don't let the facts get in the way of a good story".

HOW DO PEOPLE FORM THEIR OPINIONS?

Relatives, friends, TV or newspapers are the common sources for helping people to make & form an opinion - and all these have a popular credibility. You know "Well I read it in the paper and saw it on TV!"

Not many people have the time or the inclination to actually do any study on most topics and so they rely on information that has popular credibility.

WHEN IT COMES TO THE BIBLE IT'S NO DIFFERENT

"My Dad reckons that when he went to Sunday School..."

"My neighbor goes to church and she says..."

"My priest says that..." "It seems to me that..." "The loving thing to do in this situation would be..."

"Jesus taught about love so we should

"Let's be like Jesus and..."

Everyone has an opinion but few actually study the Bible. Everyone thinks they know what a Christian is and what it is to be a Christian, but in reality, there are few who actually know what they're talking about.

There is a saying that says "Knowing everything and knowing nothing."

JUDGE NOT

The Scripture most often used comes from Matthew 7:1 "Judge not that ye be not judged" This verse has suffered more abuse in the hands of liberal church leaders than most other passages.

By constant repetition of the verse, unregenerate pastors have cowed Christians into shutting their mouths against anything and anybody. You remember that Satan quotes (misquotes) Scripture in Matthew 4 during the temptation of Jesus and it should come as no surprise that he has never repented of the practice since then.

We are reminded that false apostles and deceitful workers transform themselves into the apostles of Christ, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:13-14).

This phrase of "judge not" should be seen in the light of other verses such as:

- 1. He that is spiritual judgeth all things" (1 Corinthians 2:15) and**
- 2. "Why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right?" (Luke 12:57) and**
- 3. "We shall judge angels" (1 Cor 6:3) and**
- 4. "For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?" (1 Corinthians 5:12).**

The Liberal overlooks these texts and or pretends that Paul's authority is secondary to the pre-crucifixion and Jewish discourse of Matthew 7.

It is to be noticed that in the phrase "That ye be not judged", there is no mention of Hell. If the issue is judging a man to be lost, no one has to judge that, for the man is already judged and condemned!

(1Cor 5:13 "But them that are without God judgeth." and John 3.18 "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.")

The rule in Matthew then, is a general rule covering the rules of conduct between Jewish saints, with a direct reference to the Kingdom of Heaven Age and the judgment mentioned in Matthew 5:22. ("Raca"? We are dealing with the Kingdom of Heaven and this is the Jewish time of Christ's One Thousand Year millennial reign. This is a Jewish term used for Jews indicating a Jewish period in the future. Inspirationally though, this is a fine teaching about anger. Council? You cannot insert "the council" of Matt 5:22 into the church age for love nor money. This is a salvation-by-works scheme that has no doctrinal application to the church age). (If you want further teaching on the difference between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God, please contact Australian Bible Ministries.)

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THE BIBLE TEACHES JUDGEMENT

The Bible teaches a very complex system of Christian judgment and discernment,

1. The Christian is to judge things in his own life and the lives of others.

"JUDGE IN YOURSELVES..." (1Cor 11:13)

For if WE WOULD JUDGE OURSELVES, we should not be judged. " (1Cor 11:31) "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you...and ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. FOR I VERILY, as absent in body, but present in spirit, HAVE JUDGED ALREADY, as though I were present, concerning him) that hath so done this deed. "(1 Corinthians 5:1- 3)

2. He is not to judge a brother as unsaved if that brother disagrees with him on minor doctrinal points of practice.

"Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.... But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ... Let us therefore not judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. "(Romans 14:1-10, 13)

3. He is not to judge anything hastily, or when not required or unmercifully or from an unscriptural standpoint. However he is to clearly mark out and avoid preachers and teachers who do not believe the word of God, or who profess to believe it but, practically, deny it by their preaching and teaching. "...mark them that cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them... and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." (Romans 16:17-18)

"For many walk ... that they are enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame..." (*Phil* 3:18-19)

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. " Matthew 7:15, 20).

YOU SEE, CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO JUDGE! HOW CAN YOU DISCERN GOOD AND BAD FRUIT IF YOU DON'T JUDGE?

The Christian has to judge the fruit quickly and accurately by the standard of absolute truth: "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good." (1 Thess 5:21).

IT IS NOTHING BUT SATANIC LIBERAL TEACHING THAT SAYS WE ARE NOT TO JUDGE WHETHER OR NOT A DOCTRINE IS TRUE. IT IS A SNARE FOR STUPID AND FEEBLE MINDED PEOPLE, WHO ARE TOO LAZY OR TOO WICKED TO SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES.

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