

## 1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 11

### The Christian's Responsibility to Judge (1 Cor. 2:12-16)

1 September 2017

The Christian is commanded to compare “**spiritual things with spiritual**”(1 Cor. 2:13). We must not decide whether something is right or wrong based on how we feel about it. Feelings are not spiritual. The word of God is spiritual (Eph. 6:17, 2 Tim. 3:16).

“**He that is spiritual judgeth all things**” (1 Cor. 2:15). This is an important lesson we must learn so that we can respond to the false notion that Christians should never judge anybody.

Additionally, people may attempt to pass judgment upon you (your character, your standing or your state in Christ, your actions, etc.) based upon their own feelings or their own opinion. If their judgment is not based on the Bible, you are “**judged of no man**” (1 Cor. 2:15) and you can dismiss their judgment.

Christians can correctly judge in any situation because “**we have the mind of Christ**” (the Holy Bible).

**Judge:** —“*To hear, to critically examine, and then to decide.*”

**Prejudice:** “*Pre-judging.*” —*Deciding without hearing or without examining* (usually because you don't like somebody to start with).

People today are more concerned with hurting somebody's feelings than they are with making sure they're preaching the truth. As a result, they now “**render good for evil**” (Psalm 38:20) and they weary the Lord by saying “**evil is good**” (Malachi 2:17) because they refuse to rightly judge by the word of God.

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**Matthew 3:7** John the Baptist judged righteous judgment when he rebuked the religious people of his day, because they were hypocrites. They were a danger to others because their actions and their teaching was leading people to hell.

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**Titus 1:10-13** The apostle Paul passed judgment upon the people of Crete. He informed Titus what to expect of those people so that he would be prepared and better able to help them.

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**Acts 7:51-54** Stephen passed judgment on a religious crowd and it cost him his life, but he was trying to help them. You can't help someone if they don't recognize they're a sinner.

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**Matthew 23** Most people who subscribe to “WWJD,” base their answer on their own *feelings* about what Jesus SHOULD do (the Jesus they have created in their own imagination). In Matthew 23, Jesus had some strong judgments against the religious leaders.

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**Psalms 33:4** If you want to know what is right and what is true, you'll find it in the word of God.

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**John 7:24** Don't judge based upon your initial impression. Make sure you critically examine before you decide. Get the facts before you make a judgment.

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**1 John 4:1-3** You've got to judge the spirits by the word of God. Many times an unclean spirit will try to masquerade as the Holy Spirit to lead a person into sin and away from God.

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**1 Thess. 5:21** We are commanded to **"Prove all things."** Don't take a preacher's word for something if you can't prove it by the Bible.

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**1 Cor. 6:1-6** No Christian can rightly say that he/she is not able to judge. The **"least esteemed"** believer among you can judge concerning **"things that pertain to this life"** because we have the word of God to go by. No special training is required.

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**1 Cor. 14:29-34** If somebody speaks in the church, that which is spoken must be judged (vs. 29) by the word of God. Don't blindly follow a preacher; judge his words by the Bible.

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**Proverbs 31:9** **"Open thy mouth, judge righteously"** is the antidote for *"Judge not lest ye be judged."*

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**Deut. 1:16-17** Judge righteously between every man, without respect of persons. If every Christian would agree to submit to the right judgment of the word of God, it would eliminate a lot of problems.

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**Matt. 7:1-5** Verse one is the verse that is so often misquoted and misapplied. Jesus said, **"Judge not, that ye BE not judged."** THEN we are told WHY, beginning in verse two. We need to examine ourselves to make sure we're not judging someone of something that we are also guilty of. Don't be a hypocrite in your judging.

Secondly, this passage teaches that if you are going to judge, do it with charity; don't attack. You will reap what you sow. If you are mean, expect an angry response. Also, you must be willing to ACCEPT right judgment from others if you are judging them.

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**Romans 2:1-3** Make certain you're not guilty of the very thing you're judging someone else about.

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**Prov. 24:23** **"It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment."** Sin is sin regardless of who commits it. Judge everyone without practicing favoritism.

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**Prov. 28:5** If you seek the Lord, you'll understand that you have to make judgments.

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**Prov. 19:28** If you're ungodly, you'll hate (scorn) the parts of the Bible that judge people and you'll only talk about the parts that are positive and won't hurt anybody's feelings. You need to have a balance in your witness. Don't tell half a story. There's a heaven and a hell, etc.

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