

JAMES (4:11-17)

Lesson 20: Judging / The Lord's Will

22 May 2020

Vs 11 These verses contain biblical instruction concerning our judgment of the brethren. The Bible is very thorough concerning this principle.

Matthew 7:1-4 Don't judge as a hypocrite. You'll be judged by the same standard with which you judge others.

John 5:22-23 God the Father has entrusted all judgment to God the Son.

John 12:47-48 The standard of judgment is not God's love, God's mercy, God's compassion, God's grace, or God's goodness. The standard of judgment is the word of God. It is the perfect standard because it does not change (Ps 119:89, Lk 21:33).

If you're going to judge a brother, you **MUST** make sure your judgment is according to the word of God. Don't make up your own laws and rules and try to force them on the brethren.

- Don't condemn your brother's actions if God doesn't condemn them in His word.
 - If the Bible doesn't call a man's actions evil, don't you judge him to be evil.
 - Your opinions and personal pet peeves ought not to play a part in judging.
 - The Pharisees were guilty of this (Matthew 23:23).
- Don't ignore your brother's sin if God's word forbids that sinful act (1 Cor 5:13, Rom 16:17).
 - If you refuse to judge according to the Bible, you are judging the Bible to be wrong. You are judging the standard of judgment to be imperfect. You are calling God a liar.
- If you don't know your Bible very well, it's best not to pass judgment. Learn the Bible.
- Unbiblical judgment will cause the Lord to leave your church (Jer 6:8, Hos 9:12, Mt 23:38).
- Biblical judgment will cause people to leave the church who don't love the word of God. Their absence will benefit the church and God's presence will continue to bless your congregation.

Vs 12 **There is one lawgiver.** It's not you, it's not me, it's not our church. God is the only lawgiver.

- There are churches today that use a voting system to decide whether something is right or wrong. Right and wrong has already been decided by God and is recorded in the Holy Bible. No vote is necessary.

...able to save and to destroy.

- When a church system creates rules that God didn't give, that church system makes itself the final authority instead of the word of God. When the church claims to be "able to save and destroy," then the people are in bondage to that system. It enables that church to control people and take advantage of them.
- When you understand that God is the lawgiver and His laws are in the Bible, you will test every teaching and every doctrine against the word of God, which is your final authority.

13-14 When it comes to making plans, whether for today, tomorrow, a year from now, or a lifetime, we need to remember that our life is in God's care. He decides if we'll have a tomorrow or not.

Vs 15 We can make plans, but we ought to always preface those plans with, "**If the Lord will.**"
