

Doctrine of Judging

1. The right to judge or evaluate every situation in life is established by Christ.
 - *John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.*

2. Righteous judgment is predicated on self-judgment first taking place.
 - *Matthew 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 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? 5 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.*

3. The importance of the Christian engaged in righteous judgment is reflected in that a whole book of the Bible is called "Judges." Furthermore, the concept of judging is made over seven hundred times in Scripture, so it is a large theme.
 - *Judges 2:16 Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.*

4. God expects His people to judge in order to establish wisdom.
 - *Psalms 37:30 The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.*
 - *Amos 5:14 Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. 15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.*

5. A false and unrighteous judgment will be reversed and judged by the Lord.
 - *Romans 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. 2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. 3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? 4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? 5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:*

6. It is a wicked and evil generation that will not sit in judgment upon society. Isaiah lived in the midst of such a people, and the church finds itself being influenced today by the worldly wisdom of being “non-judgmental”. The mantra of being nonjudgmental is loudly advocated by the homosexual community and the abortion industry which profits from slaughtering unborn babies.
- *Isaiah 59:8 The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.*
7. The apostle Paul expected the church to sit in judgment upon situations which arose within the body of believers. Paul was surprised that the saints had neglected to resolve important issues in order to not go before the courts of the world.
- *1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*
 - *1 Corinthians 2:15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.*
8. Christians are to judge or evaluate the following.
- False doctrine. *Matthew 16:6 Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.*
 - The spirits. *1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*
 - Persons. *1 Corinthians 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? 2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life? 4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. 5 I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? No, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?*

9. The ability to judge righteously is a gift of divine grace.

- *Malachi 3:18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.*

10. Seven principles must guide any judgment that is rendered.

- Judge scripturally. *Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*
- Judge carefully. Be silent where the Bible is silent. Do not judge in haste. *Proverbs 18:13 He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.*
- Judge prayerfully. *1 Kings 3:8 And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. 9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? 10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; 12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.*
- Judge equally. *Proverbs 24:23 These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.*
- Judge truthfully. *Jeremiah 5:1 Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it.*
- Judge mercifully. *Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*
- Judge with a gentle spirit. *John 8:10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? 11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.*