

Don't Judge Me !

Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment. John 7:24

Ever notice how when you rebuke a professing Christian for doing something that is contrary to sound doctrine, it always seems that the first thing that comes out of their mouth is “Don’t judge me” or “Judge not, that ye be not judged” (Matthew 7:1). Isn’t it funny how they always seem to know that one scripture? I can’t even begin to imagine how many times that this scripture has been quoted back to me over the years. Who do you think is making them say that – God, or the father of lies – the devil (John 8:44)?

Funny though how they never quote what Jesus said in John 7:24, “Judge righteous judgment.” In this day and age of compromise, I guess we’re all supposed to be good little boys and girls, keep our mouths shut, show love, and not say anything to anybody, even when the Bible explicitly says to do so.

As ambassadors of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20) we are called to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3-4). If we’re not going to defend the Word of God and our faith, then who will? We pray that after reading this Bible study you will be encouraged to boldly stand, contend, and defend the faith, which Jesus paid so dear a price for.

In chapter 5 of 1 Corinthians, Paul wrote and rebuked them for allowing fornication to take place in their church. And not just normal fornication. A man was having sex with his father’s wife (vs. 1). Paul was amazed that they were puffed up and not mourning that this man was not taken away from them (vs. 2). Ok, here we go! Paul said, “he has judged already concerning this man and what he had done and that he should be delivered unto satan for the destruction of his flesh so his spirit might be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (vs. 3-5). In vs.11, Paul warned again “that we are **NOT TO KEEP COMPANY** with anyone that is called a brother if he is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a drunkard, or an extortioner. We’re not to even eat with them.” We are not to judge outsiders or those who don’t claim to be Born Again Christians, but we are to judge those who claim to be, and are sinning (vs. 12). Paul said, “to **PUT AWAY** from among yourselves that wicked person” (vs. 13). If this man was living now in this day and age of compromise, he probably would have told them – “don’t judge me” or “Judge not lest you be judged.”

There were other times when men of God righteously judged those claiming to be saved. For instance, there was a man called Simon in the book of Acts, chapter 8, who was claiming to be saved (vs. 13) and when he saw the Apostles laying on hands (vs. 17) so the people could receive the Holy Ghost, he offered money to the Apostles to buy this power (vs. 18-19). Peter then rebuked him sharply and said, “your money perish with thee (vs. 20) because your heart is not right in the sight of God” (vs. 21). He then told him, “to repent of this wickedness and pray to God that he might be forgiven” (vs. 22 – 24).

Also, in Titus chapter 1 (vs. 12 – 13) a prophet of the Cretians said, “the Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.” What did Paul say? “This witness is true.” Was Paul judging them? YES!

And again in 3 John, the apostle John spoke about Diotrephes who loved to have the preeminence in the church and how he was prating (talking vainly) against them with malicious words, and casting others out of the church (vs. 9 – 10). John then said “follow not that which is evil but that which is good” (vs. 11). Was John judging Diotrephes – YES!

The question for every believer is this, Are you willing in this day of compromise to stand for the Bible at any cost? Every Bible believing child of God must face this question. No one said it was going to be easy. If you speak up when you see someone doing something that is contrary to sound doctrine (2 John 9), you are going to be maligned, ridiculed, slandered, and accused of not showing the love of Christ. But, who are you looking to please – man or God? The Bible says, “do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10b). And who is going to judge us at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10), man or God?

Recently, we read an old sermon that had been preached by Pastor Perry F. Rockwood (1917-2008) and we came across the following scriptures that he had used in his sermon about taking a stand for the word of God. What we read was astounding and we realized that if we don’t stand for the word of God and our faith, then who will (1 Corinthians 16:13)? The Bible also says, “We are set for the defense of the Gospel” (Philippians 1:17b). Read the following scriptures for yourself and you will have all the ammunition you need to refute those who say you are judging them the next time you have to rebuke or correct someone for doing something that is contrary to sound doctrine. The Bible sets forth a definite pattern for a strong fundamental stand in the midst of this age of compromise. So use it and let God be the judge:

- 1) **TRY THEM** - Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (1John 4:1)
- 2) **MARK THEM** - Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. (Romans 16:17)

- 3) **WARN THEM** - Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*. (1Thessalonians 5:14)
- 4) **REBUKE THEM** - This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; (Titus 1:13)
- 5) **HAVE NO FELLOWSHIP** - And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. (Ephesians 5:11)
- 6) **WITHDRAW THYSELF** - Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. (2Thessalonians 3:6)
- 7) **RECEIVE THEM NOT** - If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. (2 John 10 – 11)
- 8) **HAVE NO COMPANY WITH HIM** - And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. (2Thessalonians 3:14)
- 9) **REJECT THEM** - A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; (Titus 3:10)
- 10) **TURN AWAY** - Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (2Timothy 3:5)
- 11) **BE YE SEPARATE** - Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, (2 Corinthians 6:17)

I don't know about you but this sounds like righteous judgment to me.

The rapture of the true church is coming soon! Exactly when, no man knows for sure, except the Father only (Matthew 24:36). But it is close, very close. All the signs point to its imminency. One of the first things that we must do once we go to heaven is stand before the Lord at the judgment seat of Christ. Our works, not our sins, will be judged on that day (1 Corinthians 3:13-15). And one of the things the Lord will look at or judge was how well we defended the faith, both against outsiders, or the unsaved, and those claiming to be brothers and sisters in Christ, or born again Christians. Did we attempt to keep the church pure and without spot or blemish (2 Peter 3:14)? Or did we just let things slide for the sake of being well liked? (Acts 5:29)

In the letters to the seven churches in Revelation chapters 2 – 3, the Lord found fault with all but one of the churches. In fact, in the Laodicean church (Revelation 3:14-22), which would be the last church just before the rapture (Revelation 4:1), the Lord found nothing good about it. He said, “they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.” He also said, “they were lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, and that he would spew them out of His mouth.”

So where do you stand? Are you standing fast in the faith, working, preaching, admonishing, and defending the faith, even when persecution arises because of it, even from your own so called brothers and sisters in Christ? Or are you just going along for the ride, accepting the free gift of salvation that the Lord bought and paid for with His precious Holy blood on the cross (Revelation 1:5) - and saying nothing?

Paul told Timothy in 1Timothy 5:20 “Them that sin **REBUKE BEFORE ALL**, that others also may fear.” The Bible also says, “Open rebuke is better than secret love” (Proverbs 27:5) and that “He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favor than he that flattereth with the tongue” (Proverbs 28:23). So according to the Bible, you will find more favor with God if you do speak up, take a stand, and defend the faith. So be strong in the Lord and don't worry about what anyone else thinks. Jesus will be your judge on that day, so live to please Him.

Amen

(All scripture references taken from the King James Bible)

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