

## IS IT WRONG TO JUDGE OTHERS ?

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that judging others is not wrong but is commanded of God, add to show how it is to be done.
2. Mt. 7:1 "Judge not, that ye be not judged."
  - a. Some misunderstand these words to teach that we can never under any circumstances judge others
  - b. This cannot be the meaning - just look at other verses in chapter
    - i. V. 6 - How can we tell who is who without judging ?
    - ii. V. 15 - How can we know who is a false teacher except by judging?
    - iii. V. 16 Shows that we judge them by their fruits.
3. Some use the misunderstanding of Mt. 7:1 to ignore or condemn church discipline and to ignore false teachers and false doctrine! They use it to close the door to all Bible discussion.
4. Let us see what the Bible teaches about the subject of judging others!

### Discussion

#### I. JUDGMENT IS DELEGATED BY GOD

##### A. In The O.T.

1. Moses was chosen by God to lead His people and to judge in matters of contention
  - a. Sometimes he delegated the authority to others
  - b. Numb. 27:21 = Joshua
  - c. Ex. 28:15,30 = Aaron - Urim and Thummim
2. Jehovah raised up Judges in Israel - Judges 2:16

- B. In The N.T. God ordained civil government
  - 1. Rom. 13:1-3 - These judicial systems have the responsibility to settle certain matters between men
  - 2. Christians have the authority to judge in Christian matters I Cor. 5:12-13
- C. Christ has the responsibility of the Judgment in the last Day - II Tim. 4:1

## **II. JUDGEMENT IS ACCORDING TO A STANDARD**

- A. Judges in O.T. had to follow a principle
  - 1. Moses and the Judges were warned
  - 2. Lev. 19:15 "Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour."
- B. Christians today are to judge according to a standard
  - 1. Our standard is the Bible
  - 2. Jn. 7:24 "judge righteously" - just, fair
  - 3. In Mt. 7:1 - he is condemning unrighteous judging, self righteous - hypocritical judgment
  - 4. The Idea that we can't ever judge others is self-contradictory
    - a. If it is wrong to judge others then we would be doing wrong by judging those who were judging others
    - b. That's like arguing that its wrong to argue
    - c. Or I'll debate you that it is wrong to debate.
  - 5. Christians are to judge according to the standard of the Bible and the judgment is to be righteous or Just !!

### III. JUDGMENT IS NECESSARY IN THE CHURCH

#### A. God decrees that his people live in unity and fellowship

1. This is possible only by obeying the laws which separate us from the world and which insure unity and fellowship
2. This requires certain judgments to be made.

#### B. The N.T. warns about false teachers

1. II Pet. 2:1 "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."
2. Gal. 1:7 "Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."
3. I Jn. 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."
4. We have false teachers today in abundance
5. Therefore Judgments must be made in deciding what is right and wrong.
6. These Judgments are made with the Bible as the authority, guide or standard!

#### C. The church has these regulations to enforce:

1. I Thes. 5:14 - admonish the disorderly - warn them that are unruly
2. II Thes. 3:6 - Withdraw from those who walk disorderly
3. II Thes. 3:14 - have no company with him
4. Gal. 6:1 - Restore the erring Jas. 5:19-20

5. I Tim. 5:20 - "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."

6. I Cor. 5:11, 13 "with such a one, no, not to eat"

7. Rom. 16:17 - "Mark them which cause divisions"

D. Judgments have to be made to know which ones to mark, withdraw from, reprove, have no company with, and to restore!

#### **IV. DANGEROUS ATTITUDE TOWARD JUDGING**

A. Some fearful members deny that one can Judge anything are saying:

1. "How can we know who will be saved?"

2. "How does anyone know that God won't save one who has not been baptized?"

3. "Who are we to say that Instrumental music in worship is wrong?"

B. Let us see that God has drawn some lines and we must respect them, and are not wrong in doing it!!

1. We can know about who will not be saved.

a. The unbeliever cannot be saved Heb. 11:6 - Jn. 8:24

b. Those outside of Christ have no hope - Eph. 2:12

c. Baptism is the way into Christ - Gal. 3:27

d. Those who are unbelieving and unbaptized are lost,

e. We are not condemning and it is not wrong to declare that a man is lost who has not obeyed the Gospel.

2. We know that it is wrong to accept additions to the scriptures - Rev. 22:18-19

a. There is no authority in the N.T. for instrumental music worship

b. He has not authorized by command, example, inference or expediency the use of instrumental music

- c. God has drawn a line and we are not being unchristian when we respect it and withhold fellowship from those who cross that line.

## **V. NOT JUDGING OTHERS IS MORE LIKE THE DEVIL**

- A. Some have the idea that not judging others makes them Christ-like. The truth of the matter it makes them more like the devil.
- B. This use of Matt. 7:1 is taking it out of context. It does not consider the rest of the chapter and other verses.
- C. The Devil used this way of isolating scriptures
  - 1. Matt. 4:1-11
    - a. Tempted Jesus to jump down from the pinnacle of the temple
    - b. Quoted Ps. 91:11 from O.T.
  - 2. Jesus replied -
    - a. It is written again and quoted from Deut. 6:16
    - b. There is more to the subject than what the devil quoted.
- D. To take only Matt. 7:1 and use it to argue that we must never judge others is not a Christ-like use of the scriptures - it is Devil-like.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Is it wrong to judge others?
2. No - Christians have the right and the command to judge in certain matters
3. We can judge only in the areas authorized by God.
4. Mt. 7:1 teaches that we are to judge with love.
5. Let us recognize the error of the idea that we must never judge others!
6. Sin and error in the lives of people must be pointed out to them!!

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