

# Can We Judge One Another?

It seems we are living in a time when it is quite evident that a lot of emphasis is placed on not judging. Although one needs to be aware that we should be careful about our judging and *how we judge*, yet we need to understand what the scriptures say concerning judging.

We need to be aware, if we do no judging, then we will allow everything to occur and we will stand for nothing. Just as the scriptures warn us about judging and how we judge, yet it also warns us for not standing for truth and right. To be able to determine this, we need to know what the scriptures have to say about our subject.

## 1. Some use the following scriptures for support of not judging.

- A. Forbearing one another in love: Ephesians 4:2
- B. We ought to love one another: 1 John 4:11

We ought to forbear or endure the shortcomings of others. We ought to love and show love and concern to the individual. But this ought not stand in the way of us deciding what is right and what is wrong, then taking a stand for the right.

### SCRIPTURE MOST USED

## 2. Scripture says not to judge. Matthew 7:1-2

If public opinion comes down on a moral issue, without a doubt, this is the first scripture that will be used to show we ought not deal with the issue. The normal opinion is, "if it is not hurting anyone, then let it be." But this is a dangerous attitude to fall into, as we shall see later.

### SCRIPTURES WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH

## 3. Judge not to appearance. John 7:24

We are told, not to judge according to appearance, but to judge righteous judgment. In other words don't be hasty in judging. Get the facts first. Then we are to judge righteously. Is this contradictory to Matthew 7:1-2? All scripture must harmonize and we shall endeavor to do this later.

## 4. What should be our attitude toward a fallen friend? Galatians 6:1

If a man be overtaken by a fault, we are to help him, encourage him. The point is, how will we know he has been overtaken by a fault, if we don't judge him? Verse 2, tells us to help the man (woman). Verse 3, tells us never to think of ourselves to be superior to the fallen brother, or we only deceive ourselves. For some thing similar could happen to us.

## 5. The scriptures tell us how to judge. 1 Corinthians 2:12-13

We are not to judge according to the flesh or to the way man would judge a situation. But comparing the situation spiritually or the way God would judge from spiritual insight. We will see how that can be done later.

### WE HAVE TO JUDGE

## 6. Known by their fruit. Matthew 7:15-18

Just as a fruit tree is known by its fruit, whether edible or not, so we can only judge by what we

see and experience. To determine this, we have to judge. That is why the morale fiber of the world is getting worse and worse.

The few speak so loudly that the majority stay silent because we do not want to be looked at as being narrow minded. When no voice that speaks out, sin prospers. This tells us we are being judged, whether we realize it or not.

**7. The one who wrote most of the New Testament judged.** 1 Corinthians 5:3, 4-5

Paul had not talked to the guilty party directly, but apparently the one who informed him was dependable, so he made a judgment call anyway. In verse 5, he tells them to disfellowship the man who was having a sexual relationship with his fathers wife.

Then in verse 6, he scolds the church for not speaking out against it and taking no action concerning the matter. So keeping silent, at times, is not pleasing to God. Paul made a righteous judgment decision.

**8. The question now is, how do we judge?** John 12:47-48

God's Word is going to judge us on Judgment Day. If God is going to judge us according to His Word, then that is the way we ought to judge our fellowman. Therefore, before we can judge, we have to read, study, and understand the standard God wants us to live by, not compromising in any way.

Remember, Adam and Eve were fully instructed what to eat and what not to eat. They were fully instructed what would happen if they did. They chose to ignore the instruction that God gave them. So it is today that God has clearly instructed us how he wants us to live, but man (as a whole) has chosen to ignore the instruction of God. It is up to the few to speak up and let our voices be heard. At least we have done our part.

**9. Let's goback to Matthew 7:1-2, 3-5**

This plainly tells us not to judge. How can we harmonize this with these scriptures that tell us to judge. In interpreting the scriptures, you have to decide whom Christ is speaking to and why. In this case verse 5 tells us. He is speaking to the hypocrite. The one who wants to tell everyone how they ought to live. Read verse 5 again.

In verse 3-4, the hypocrite has a beam (doing some thing worse) in his eye and trying to get mote (small speck) out of his brothers eye. So the hypocrite is not in a position to judge.

Therefore, to use this scripture as a solid foundation to say "we ought not to judge," is taking the thought out of context. It is the hypocrite who Christ is saying not to judge, for he is guilty himself.

**10. A supportive scripture.** Romans 2:1-3

In Verse 1, Paul also is speaking to the hypocrite. The one who tries to tell others how to live, but but he himself is doing the very same thing (or worse) as the one he is criticizing. Paul gets right back to the truth of the matter and explains how judgment should be meted out. Judgment should be according to scripture, truth.

**11. Until Jesus comes, we have a responsibility.** Luke 19:13

"...*Occupy until I come.*" means we are to take care of the Lords business until he returns. This is not by sound (words) only, but by action, the way we live day by day. May we be good representatives so we can speak out on issues which are not godly and people might listen.

**SUMMARY**

Yes, the bible does tell us to judge, but we must be careful in our

judgment of others lest we be hypocrites. May it be softened with love and compassion, even forgiveness, when such is needed.

























