

For Our Information

Carolynn Richmond, Adene Gray's daughter, will be in Houston, TX for the several month for treatments.

Continue to remember Ricky & Theresa Ragsdale, John Venable, Judy Thrasher and others of our families with health issues also.

John LaValla has a doctor's appointment Monday regarding his illness. Cancer is a concern that will be considered.

Keep our brothers & sisters in mind

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

(I found the preceding article in the February 2001 issue of the East Florence Contender. It seems that the attitude of "Don't judge me" continues to increase rather than decrease.

As some of our recent Bible classes and sermons have reminded us, we must continue to determine if those we follow are following Christ. We must determine if our teachers are teaching Truth or error. The points made in this article will help us learn to make righteous judgements and avoid quick judgements and partiality.

No matter what is going on in the world around us, we must still submit to the standard of God's Word as delivered by the Spirit through inspired men. Those who refuse to guide their life by this standard must be noted. Those who seek to lead others away from this standard must be marked and we have an obligation to warn others about them. Study carefully and apply the Word with diligence. DLH)

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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Seeking His Righteousness

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"Judging" Error!

Robert Harkrider

(The following question was submitted to the East Florence Contender in 1972 and was answered by Robert Harkrider, the editor at that time.

Jesus said, "Judge not that ye be not judged," (**Matthew 7:1**). Aren't you guilty of "judging" when you criticize and condemn others whose beliefs are different than yours?

This question is almost identical to some we are often asked even today, almost half a century later. I think it wise, therefore, for us to consider the following response from Brother Harkrider. DLH)



For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

James 2:13



1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

TannerSt.com

If exposing false doctrine is “judging” in the sense Jesus used the word in **Matt. 7**, then it would be impossible to oppose the devil. Jesus Himself warned many times against false teachers (**Matt. 7:15**), and the New Testament is filled with examples where sinful practices and false doctrine were exposed. The devil will appear religious, for he is the father of lies and comes “transformed as an angel of light” (**2Cor. 11:14**), claiming to be God’s servant whereas his real design is to lead men astray by false doctrine (**Gal. 1:6-8**). Jesus surely did not forbid condemning false doctrine whereby we oppose the devil. Let us then look more closely at the word “judging.”

1. Judging motives is condemned. It is quite sinful to “impugn motives or to condemn without giving all the charges an impartial and careful examination. We may know men by their actions (**Matt. 7:16**), but we are not at liberty to censure others for what we “may think” is their motive. God alone can read the hearts of men, and He alone can pass sentence.

2. Unjust, unfair judgment and harsh criticism is forbidden. Partiality is prohibited (**James 2:1-13**). Fault-finding, ill-will, and rash judgment are condemned. It is wrong to form opinions, to draw conclusions, and to pass sentence upon anyone before knowing the facts. Gentleness, kindness, mercy, forbearance, forgiveness, patience with others, and love bring one into favor with God and men. “*For judgment is without mercy to him that hath showed no mercy ...*” (**James 2:13**).

3. “With what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged” (**Matt. 7:2**). It is wrong to condemn others

Store In My Heart

James 1:17

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

God gives good things. He does not tempt us. He does not want us to fail. He wants us to be successful in our service unto Him. He has provided what we need to overcome temptation. Too often we give up because we think we cannot endure. James tells us God will never stop blessing us with good things as long as we put our trust in Him. We are not alone in our struggle and we are not left to our own strength. God will give wisdom. He will provide strength. With Him we will be able to overcome all difficulty that might come along.

for what one practices himself. Correcting faults in others is to no profit unless we are looking at ourselves and prepared to correct whatever mistakes we may have (**Gal. 6:1**). Those who live by a double standard are condemned. “*Therefore thou art inexcuseable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest; for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; thou that judges: doest the same things*” (**Rom. 2:1**; see also **Matt. 7:3-5**).

4. Testing doctrine is commanded. “*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). To know men by their fruit and to reprove them is not forbidden (see **Matt. 7:15-20**; **2Thess. 3:6-15**; **Rom. 16:17-18**; **1Cor. 5:2,12**). We do not oppose men themselves but their erroneous ways. The intent is love for them that they may repent and be saved. When a “thus saith the Lord” is the standard by which Right and Wrong is determined, we are not the judges. God’s word becomes the standard of judgment (John 12:48). If, however, we remain silent or ignore false doctrine and sinful practices then we ourselves become guilty for failure to extend God’s warning (**Ezek. 33:7-9**).

No normal person takes pleasure in exposing faults in others, but the love of God constrains us to try as best we can to follow Paul’s example, “*Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God*” (**Acts 20:26-27**). May God help us to test ourselves as well as others and to always “*speak the truth in love*” (**Eph. 4:15**).