



Whose Judgment Seat?

“You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat” (Romans 14:10).

In the Garden, our task was to implement God’s will on His creation. In this fallen world, we humans implement OUR will on creation. This is the result of the Fall where the Serpent told Adam and Eve that eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil would cause their eyes to be *“opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil”* (Genesis 3:5b). This isn’t truly knowing what is good and evil, but rather what we WANT to be good and what we WANT to be evil. When man ate of this Tree, he became “like God” in the sense that he took on the task of judgment for himself.

And boy, have we ever! Few are the men and women who acknowledge God as judge of what is right and what is wrong in their lives and in the world. Everywhere, men think they can sit down in God’s judgment seat, but they are nothing more than imposters. This is why our judgment of a fellow Believer’s intent is so serious to God. We are seated in His place, passing judgments that are His alone to make.

As Believers, we are called to acknowledge the “judgment seat” as God’s and obey God’s judgment rather than the judgment of men. This means we are not to be judging Believers or non-believers in things where God’s judgment in His Scripture is not clear. So often though, this is where we get hung up the most. Many Believers can be very harsh and judgmental about things like alcohol, smoking, pre-trib/post-trib rapture, formal wear, pork, KJV-only, and baptism. These things divide church

bodies and destroy relationships despite the command that *“no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ”* (Colossians 2:16-17).

However, we must share God’s judgment as His Word and Holy Spirit direct us—we are instructed to preach the Gospel (Mark 16:15), test the spirits (1 John 4:1), and judge over issues in the Church where God’s Word is clear (1 Corinthians 6:1). This is what Elders are instructed to be—conduits for His judgment, *“according to the will of God”* (1 Peter 5:2b), *“for not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given **all judgment** to the Son”* (John 5:22) and He is our Head (Ephesians 5:23). Jesus alone is *“able to judge the **thoughts and intentions** of the heart”* (Hebrews 4:12).

In any dispute we must give it over to the Lord. We must have the perspective of David who said, *“The LORD therefore be judge and decide between you and me”* (1 Samuel 24:15a), because He will. Far better that we listen and obey Christ’s commands now than when we stand before His Judgment Seat. The command from God is that *“all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you”* (1 Peter 5:5-7). *“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others”* (Philippians 2:3-4). This is a high calling—may it be our aim. Amen.