

SHOULD WE JUDGE?

1. Text: John 7:21-24
2. Judging is a vital subject. (Word appears 161 times in New Testament as verb or noun) yet it is a misunderstood subject.
3. Problems: It's one of the most used maneuvers to shut off quests for truth. Seen as evil in "culture of tolerance." Devil's delight is to misuse a truth to stop truth seeking. Actually turns truth into relativism. Seems we can judge in all things but our eternal destinies.
4. Let's get a handle on this subject.

I. **Defining Judging**

1. If you think about it, we use judging in two ways usually.
2. Think of a judge in court: First, he is an impartial decision maker over proceeding of court to make sure fair trial. Second, he is one who condemns, passes judgment on defendant.
3. We do the same: Decisions and condemnations

II. **Divine Judgment**

1. These are two ways seen in Scripture related to God and Christ.
2. God: Hebrews 12:28 God is the Judge of all. Hebrews 13:4 Prostitutes and adulterers God will judge.
3. Christ: John 12:47 I came not to judge the world. John 3:17 Christ sent not to judge or condemn world. John 5:22 Father committed all judgment to the Son. (See Acts 10:42) This is not a hopeless contradiction but two meanings of same word.

III. **Distinguishing Judgment For Humans**

1. If same word used for judging in two senses for God and Christ, we shouldn't be surprised it's used for Christians. See these contrasts:
2. Matthew 7:1 Judge not. John 7:24 Judge righteous judgment.
3. I Corinthians 4:5 Judge nothing before the time. Then "I've judged already" (5:3); "Judge what I say." (10:15)

IV. **Denied Judgment For Humans**

1. The most extensive passage: Matthew 7:1-5
2. This is a harsh, inconsistent, petty, unfair, wildly critical judgment.

V. **Demanded Judgment For Humans**

1. Remember passages above require judging. Again, John 7:24; or Acts 4:19.
2. Its Basis: What is right (John 7:24); According to truth (Romans 2:2); James 2:12 Speak and do as those to be judged by law of liberty.
3. Its Process: Put things to test, examine, be convinced, prove. Same word is in all these verses; Ephesians 5:10 Proving what is acceptable to God; examine yourselves whether you're in the faith; prove your own selves (II Corinthians 13:5); Prove all things; hold to the good (I Thessalonians 5:21); I John 4:1 Believe not every spirit, but try them whether they are of God.
4. Its Results: Obvious. Matthew 7:20 By fruit will know; Acts 13:46 You judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life; Acts 16:15 If you've judged me faithful.

Conclusion! Right to judge? No and yes. Standard is God's word. Know the truth and press it home.
John 12:48. Way to answer:

