

God Decides Our Accountability

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The only Judge of every one told us in His Holy Word (Luke 6:37) "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven." The importance of not judging or condemning others without just cause, but instead, for us to examine our own motives and intentions and attitudes, is the subject that we want to consider in this message.

We need to always concentrate on our own heart attitude, as we are plainly told to do (2 Cor.13:5) "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you - unless, of course, you fail the test?"

Judging our own heart attitude is extremely important in our Christian walk of faith because we are accountable to God, only! That is why it has been many times said that we must 'look at ourselves' when we are mistreated or persecuted in some way, instead of looking for fault in the other person (or circumstance). We should sincerely want to know why we were not protected from mistreatment or persecution (for which we have an Atonement privilege to claim protection from). The fault lies within ourselves for why we were not protected by God from being over-charged, misrepresented, or mistreated in some other way, and that should be of great importance to us, for it is of great importance to our true Christian walk with the Lord. We must realize that God knows what attitudes are in our heart, and so, that unpleasant circumstance was permitted to take place, because God wants to reveal to us that we have a wrong attitude in our heart which is and will be a definite hindrance to our spiritual development and our being prepared to meet Jesus Christ on His return.

We must examine our own attitudes, our conduct, and motives. We should not

judge the possible intentions or motives of others around us, instead we are to form an opinion on their behavior, their words, interests, or conduct in general, and we are to pray for God to convict them. (Matt.5:44-45) "but I command you all, love your enemies and pray for your persecutors; that so you may become true sons of your Father in Heaven;" Also (Zech.7:9) "Execute true judgment and show mercy and compassions; every man to his brother."

"Execute true judgment:" means to look at and judge ourselves (not look for fault the other person, even though that may be a glaring fault), and do not follow the advice of those of the world to bring about our own justice. That unpleasant circumstance was permitted to take place, because God wants to reveal to us that we have a wrong attitude in our heart, instead of a 'forgiving spirit', (and that we need to look at our own heart attitude).

Jesus warned us often, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly they are ravening wolves." (Matt.7:15) Also, "Ye shall know them by their fruits." (vs.16) (So, we must form an opinion on the teaching and advice they are giving out, to know if it is a 'false doctrine' and wrong advice.)

(Rom.14:1-3) "Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on 'disputable matters'. One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him." (Type of food is a disputable matter), instead, we are to make judgments on matters of faith and trust, and be sure that we are on the path of being made righteous by faith, or, are we on a wrong pathway with a wrong attitude toward someone or a circumstance that took place? (Psalm 7:11) "God judges the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day." (God is angry to see the devil take away our righteousness via wrong attitudes in our heart.)

(Acts 17:31) "He has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness."

And we were told (1 Sam.2:25) "If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" (or even could they?)

(Rom.14:4) "Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand." God will help anyone stand in faith on His promises if they will choose to trust Him first. Indeed, we are, "Kept by the power of God through faith." (1 Pet.1:5)

(We are reminded again from Zech.7:9) "Execute true judgment and show mercy and compassions; every man to his brother." (James 2: 12-13 "Speak and act as those should who are expecting to be judged by the Law of freedom. For he who shows no mercy will have judgment given against him without mercy; but mercy triumphs over judgment." [We can easily realize from these passages of Scriptures, how important it is to our spiritual growth and development in the Truth, to show mercy and compassion as Jesus told us to, by praying for those who overcharge us, or persecute, or mistreat us in some other way.]

We are reminded again, that food is simply a matter of disputable opinion, however, God did give specific instructions on what is clean or unclean (Leviticus chapter 11). God said originally, in (Gen.1:29) "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food." Later, after the Flood (Gen.9:3) He said, "Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything."

Believers should be in agreement on having 'faith in Christ' but can have different opinions on things that are not Salvation issues. For all believers to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, will bring unity among us. The devil tries to bring about disunity, so we must be aware of that as we are

warned. (1 Cor.1:10) "I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

We are not to judge other people on matters not essential to one's Christian walk of faith, but we should include them in prayers for God to enlighten them to understand each principle of faith and trust on God, and so, be united on that very essential issue of 'faith in the Atonement Blood of Christ'. The 'principle of truth' concerning our trust on God for health, healing, protection, provisions, and everything else, is indeed essential, and it would unify believers.

(Rom.14:5-6) "One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains does so to the Lord, and gives thanks to God."

God knows the heart of every person, and that is the only thing that matters. We should not condemn another, because we do not know what is in their heart, but we should pray for their enlightenment. Jesus died for sins of everybody on earth, but each individual must choose to trust in faith on the Atonement sacrifice He made for them.

The Jewish believer who was new in the faith, felt compelled to observe ceremonies and special days of the Law, but Gentiles who were new believers wanted to separate from former pagan customs and idolatrous festivities. Mature believers were unaffected by those concerns, because their faith in the Blood of Christ is what mattered to them, not outward appearances to gain favor with someone (Gal.5:6) "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."

An individual true believer trusts God in faith on the Atonement Blood of His Son for health and healing, without medical intervention. (Acts 3:16) "It is His name - faith in that name being

the condition, which has strengthened this man whom you behold and know; and the faith which He has given, has made this man sound and strong again."

Trusting God in faith for real life issues is an individual matter between each person and God, and this can never be omitted. Faith expressing itself through love for God, will trust Him for the finances needed each day to meet expenses of that day, without laid-up money to depend on.

Jesus told the rich young man that he had to eliminate false places of trust, if he wanted eternal life. The man did not accept the advice, so Jesus followed by saying it would be impossible to enter the kingdom, if we could not trust His Father for money. (Mark 10:24 "Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!")

After saying it is impossible to enter Heaven, if we still held on to earthly treasure, the disciples said (Mark 10:26) "Who then can be saved?" Jesus answered (vs.27) "With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible."

Types of food and some other things are not Salvation issues, so believers will have different opinions on those things, but we must be united in matters pertaining to the teaching of Scripture. Jesus was very specific on money matters, which is not just a matter of opinion. (Matt.6:19-21) "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where—[anything can happen to them] "and thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where—[they are secure]—For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Jesus made a statement about the divine principle of faith and trust on the issue of finances (Matt.6:24) "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." We can have different opinions on some issues, but on trusting God for money matters we are all to have the same faith.

After His warning (Luke 12:1) "Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy", Jesus later said, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." (Luke 12:15)

Jesus then explained about the farmer who built bigger barns to store up his increase of gains for his future needs. (Luke 12:19-21) "I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

We need to follow our spiritual convictions on issues that are essential to our life of faith and obedience to God's Word, issues like divine healing and daily financial trust on God, getting rid of the 'life of self', but we are not to judge others on unimportant matters like types of foods and other things that are not essential to our pathway of faith and trust on God. (Rom.14:7-8) "For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." (we are always accountable to God!)

The issues we should be most concerned about is our trust on God for important things in life; He is the One to whom we are held accountable. (1 Cor.10:31) "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." We do not live to please ourselves, but we are to live in a way that is pleasing to the Lord. God is the only One who has the right to tell us how to live (1 Cor.6:20) "For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

(Rom.6:22) "Now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your 'fruit unto holiness', and the end, everlasting life." It is to be a continual learning experience for

each one of us, with God teaching us every day. Our part is, we are to listen to Him; learn from His Word; judge our own motives and intentions and be willing to change where God has shown us to be wrong.

(Rom.14:10-12) "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ [our God]. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So, then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

When we make judgments of others, it should be based on their 'choice of activities'; on their conversations in general, (all of which should be Christlike). Our judgments should not be made on what we *think* to be their intentions or motives. We have to form an opinion on religious teachings, because so much is heard and read today (and very much of it is false doctrines given by false professed Christians (most of whom are not trusting God for things in life, and the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is not for unbelievers). Jesus made it very clear (Matt.7:15) "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." We have to make a judgment on what is said and heard, so we can decide whether or not it is Scriptural.

Keeping our faith in the Atonement Blood of Christ is the vital issue. We are to judge our own life, faith, and trust on God, because we will all stand-alone before Christ. (2 Cor.5:10) "For we must all of us appear before Christ's judgment-seat in our true characters, in order that each may then receive an award for his actions in this life, in accordance with what he has done, whether it be good, or whether it be worthless."

The apostle Paul instructed (2 Cor.13:5) "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves." The Christian life is an individual matter between us and God. Personally dealing with God, along with a believing trust on His Atonement sacrifice for all things in life, is

a vital issue to determine our preparation for Eternal Life. Close and personal friends we choose, should give evidence of their having that same trust and faith in God. We are accountable only to God! (through Jesus Christ His Son).

Jesus told us that He is in the Father and the Father is in Him (meaning, that same Holy Spirit is within both, and whom Jesus said would "guide us into all Truth.") He also gave us a very plain and clear picture of His Father's and His divinely commissioned authority as the Judge of all of mankind (John 5:20-29) "For the Father loves the Son and reveals to Him all that He Himself is doing. And greater deeds than these will He reveal to Him, in order that you may wonder. For just as the Father awakens the dead and gives them life, so the Son also gives life to whom He wills. The Father indeed does not judge any one, but He has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son even as they honor the Father. The man who withholds honor from the Son withholds honor from the Father who sent Him." "In most solemn truth I tell you that he who listens to my teaching and believes Him who sent me, has the Life of the Ages, and does not come under judgment, but has passed over out of death into Life. "In most solemn truth I tell you that a time is coming—nay, has already come—when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear it will live. For just as the Father has life in Himself, so He has also given to the Son to have life in Himself. And He has conferred on Him authority to act as Judge, because He is the Son of Man. Wonder not at this. For a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear His voice and will come forth" — "they who have done what is right to the resurrection of Life, and they whose actions have been evil to the resurrection of judgment."

[Indeed, we are all fully accountable to God!]

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