

A Just Judge

Men who would be elders are men who must be a judge.

- You must judge the interpretation of scripture
- You must judge how the moral absolutes in scripture should be applied in the church.
- You must judge who should be leaders in the church.
- You must judge between brothers and sisters when they cannot settle personal issues that cause division.

If men will be judges, it is critical that those who are chosen are men who will be just judges.

In the infallible Word of God there are strong cautions about judging. Judging is necessary for leadership. But the Word of God warns us to be very cautious before we make a judgment lest we become an unjust judge that does much harm to others. The harm is contention. The harm is poisoning people's minds about the reputation of others. The harm is false accusations and charges that cause men to suffer consequences they do not deserve.

A just judge.....

- Examines Himself before he judges others.

You are not qualified to judge if you have any blind spot in your life.

Matt 7:1-6

7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

KJV

Acts 23:3

3 Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?

KJV

Rom 2:17-24

17 Behold, thou art called a Jew, and restest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,

18 And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law;
19 And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,
20 An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.
21 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?
22 Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?
23 Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?
24 For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.
KJV

Rom 14:13

13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.
KJV

1 Cor 4:3-5

3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.
4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

- Will not assume authority to judge when he has not been appointed to judge.

Luke 12:13-14

13 And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.
14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?
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Acts 7:27

27 But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?
KJV

Acts 18:12-16

12 And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat,
13 Saying, This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law.
14 And when Paul was now about to open his mouth, Gallio said unto the Jews, If it were a matter of wrong or wicked lewdness, O ye Jews, reason would that I should bear with you:

15 But if it be a question of words and names, and of your law, look ye to it; for I will be no judge of such matters.

16 And he drave them from the judgment seat.

KJV

Rom 14:3-4

3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.

4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

KJV

Rom 14:10

10 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.

KJV

Col 2:16-23

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

21(Touch not; taste not; handle not;

22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

KJV

James 4:11-12

11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

KJV

John 12:47

47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

KJV

- Uses the absolute moral commands of scripture as His guide for the will of God.

John 5:30

30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

KJV

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

KJV

A just judge will not make charges against others using innuendoes and ambiguous charges. A just judge will not publicly misrepresent the facts to bring a charge against others. He will state the scripture or moral command that has been violated and give clear examples of when this has occurred. If necessary he will produce witnesses who can confirm or saw the violation occur.

- Does not make a judgment based on appearance.

John 7:24

24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

KJV

- Does not judge any man before he hears him.

John 7:51

51 Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?

KJV

Matt 5:21-22

21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

KJV

Matt 12:35-37

35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

KJV

- Does not judge after the flesh or the traditions of men.

John 8:15-18

15 Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

16 And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.

17 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.

18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

KJV

- Is not partial to any.

James 2:2-4

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

KJV

- Seeks restoration for those who have fallen.

Luke 6:35-37

35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

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James 2:13

13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

KJV

Do you know how you can know if you have the Father's heart as a judge?

- If you have the Father's heart you will not share your judgment of others with others unless you are seeking a witness that can help you restore the one who has fallen.
- You will not judge another man's motives until that man refuses to repent and he intentionally rejects the absolute moral commands of God's Word.

Phil 1:8-10

8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

KJV

If you have been an unjust judge, you need repent to your Heavenly Father for not being like Him. You need to ask Him to set you free of this sin. You need to go to those you have injured and acknowledge that you were wrong. You need to ask for their forgiveness. You need to

With regard to elders who are appointed to judge they should be tested. A congregation should not lay hands upon men hastily lest you become a partaker of their sins.

1 Tim 5:17-22

17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.

20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

21 I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.

22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

KJV

I do not believe our former board of elders was just. We did not rule well. We violated the moral commands that I have shared with you on many occasions and without repentance. As a result, there was great injury done to individuals, families, the unity of our staff, and the unity of our church. Our current advisory counsel should investigate my charge, question the witnesses, and seek to restore broken relationships.

Counting myself, there are at least eight witnesses to my charge. These are witnesses who have been personally injured or who have witnessed others being injured.

You should know if my charge is true or false.

If my charge is not true those men I have charged should be cleared by the advisory counsel. If my charge is not true, I will resign from my position of senior Pastor and seek restoration for myself before I seek to serve in the future.

If my charge is true, then those who repent and who are guilty should confess their fault to you.

If they will not repent, then our current advisory counsel should rebuke them in your presence.

I Tim. 5:20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

Before any of our former elders are appointed to serve as elders in the future, their ability to be a just judge needs to be thoroughly tested. This is one of the reasons the church constitution and bylaws needs to be revised. It is also needs to be revised so that we can have a clear process for dealing with charges made against our elders.

The integrity of the men currently serving on our Advisory Counsel has been publicly called into question. I personally do not believe this is just. I would encourage you not to judge them until they have completed their investigation and you have heard their judgments and the reasons for their judgments.

I believe that within a local congregation there should be a place for any man to fulfill God's call on his life to Pastor. I do not believe that in the scripture there is a distinction between the office of Pastor and Elder. I do not believe that every Pastor/Elder has to be appointed to make the major decisions for a congregation. I believe that the congregation needs to appoint men from among the Pastors who are gifted to administrate and rule. I also believe that the congregation needs to appoint Pastors to preach and teach who are gifted to preach and teach. This may be one man or it may be more depending on who the Father has brought to the congregation.

I am committed to a plurality of elders ruling the church when there a plurality of qualified elders in the church. If this is not the case, then the congregation needs to appoint Godly men to make decisions for the church until God brings qualified elders into the church.