

Judgmental or Wisdom?



Introduction:

Growing up and into my young adult years, I can personally recall multiple times that when I took a stand to do right based on the Word of God I was accused of being “judgmental” or even “hyper pious” or even a “legalist”.

Judgmental is the term directed at me in my childhood years.

Hyper pious the term occasionally directed at me in my young adult years.

Legalist is the term more commonly thrown at me in the past two decades of life.

IF A CHILD can be intimidated when taking a stand for Christ, he/she will surely not be able to stand as a teen, and consequently as an adult be missing the blessing of walking in faith.

With this in mind, a Bible Study Lesson & Handout Discussion/Sheet on Judgmental or Wisdom follows. Let's see what the Word of God has to say on handling Judging.

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...

1 John 4: 1

...believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Ephesians 5: 6-20

...be ye not partakers with them...and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness....

2 Corinthians 6:17

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

2 Corinthians 6:14

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Main Message:

Looking at those verses, it is hard sometimes to figure out [discern] what the Bible is saying. After all, we are told not to judge others. In fact the scripture in Luke 6:37 should be read and studied as a whole passage from Luke 6:36-49. Scripture is never just one verse. Remember that the Bible we have today was not written originally with chapters or verses but rather in paragraph type thoughts from the Lord.

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Remember the Bible, God's Word, does not contradict itself in spite of what unbelievers tell you; but rather it should be taken as a whole. You wouldn't read part of a sentence and then presume to understand the author's thoughts. The same is true with the Scripture.

So reread slowly the verses provided today:

- † *Luke 6:37: Jesus' own words tell us to not take the place of Judge as that is His position.*
- † *1 John 4:1: John tells us to use discernment, that is, judgment in life. Is this a contradiction?*
- † *Ephesians 5: 6-20: We are told by Paul to not fellowship with evil. How do you know if someone or something is evil?*
- † *2 Corinthians 6:17: Separation: Now there is a word that is misunderstood!*
- † *2 Corinthians 6:14: Unequally yoked? What's that about?*

The good news is there is no contradiction. There is Wisdom for the asking, according to Proverbs. There is a Comforter whose name is the Holy Spirit according to Jesus' own words.

Have you been accused of being judgmental? Perhaps you have been judgmental according to Luke 6. If so, ask forgiveness. Or have you been accused because you would not participate in something the other kids asked you to do? If so, stand anyway. Jesus sees all. Leave it with Him.

Have you been accused of being hyper pious? Well, most likely that big phrase hasn't been used on you yet! It usually means someone in your peer group is upset that you are doing the right thing and they are not. If so, don't be the JUDGE on the matter. Leave it with the Lord and be kind. Just do what is right.

How about being called a legalist? Well, you haven't been called that yet either most likely. While being a true legalist means you depend upon your good works for salvation and keeping of your salvation, that is not what a typical person means when they call you a legalist. Instead, it is used accusingly by Christians towards other Christians to make you feel badly that you won't go along with something they do in their lives. Usually I have found it is a Christian that doesn't practice a holy life that wants to make you look bad for trying to live one.

Let's get down to the problem to see if we can use Wisdom to discern the answers the Holy Spirit would lead us to.

WHERE IS THE LINE DRAWN?

1. A friend asks you to try their prescription Ritalin, after all it is a prescription drug, not an illegal drug and it will help you make a better grade on the test. It's not like Dope or Drugs, right? Are you judging or using wisdom?
2. A friend keeps tricking you into listening to dirty jokes or music. You laugh a little because, after all, you are just trying to "win them to Jesus" right? You need to be nonjudgmental, right?
3. A song you really like complains about parents being the "boss" and telling you what to do. A song you like uses language you know you would not say in front of God. Are you judging or using wisdom?
4. You tell a Christian friend that you don't want to stay and watch the rest of this movie and your friend says you are judgmental. Are you judging or using wisdom?
5. What is judgmental and what is a WISE CHOICE ?

Realizing that taking a stand will ALWAYS bring criticism from some. Be true to the Lord; He is the Only One that matters. His ways are perfect. Study His Word; get His mind on the matter
You cannot always discern or know which is which if you do not have the Holy Spirit of God living in you. If you have never trusted Jesus as Savior, listen & consider doing so.

At this point the message time is handed over to the Salvation Explained Segment of our Message: This is where we use the Salvation Flash cards found under the Salvation Heading on our Website. Message is complete.

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