

RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENT

By Messianic Rabbi Ed Rothman

"Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." John 7:24

I. DEFINITIONS & SCRIPTURAL INSTRUCTIONS

A. Judge - (Greek, 2919) Kree-noh = To decide (mentally or judicially), to try, condemn, punish, sentence, to damn.

1. Matthew 7:1 – 5 – “Judge not, that you be not judged.
2. Romans 2: 1 - 4 {Amplified} [Condemn - (Greek, 2632) - Kata-kree-noh = a judgment made against us by another]. ¹Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

B. Condemn " - (Greek, 2613) Katad-ikadzo = To pronounce guilty.

1. Luke 6:27 - 49 - ³⁶Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.
2. John 7:21 - 24; 40 – 52 - Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.

C. Discern - (Greek, 350) Ana-kree-noh = To scrutinize, investigate, question, examine, search out, determine.

1. [The Holy Spirit] 1 Corinthians 2:12 - 14: vs. 15. Judges = same as discern (Ana-kree-no). the things of the Spirit of God are spiritually discerned
2. [The Written Word] Hebrews 5:12 - 14 (Greek, 125) Dia-kree-sis = To separate thoroughly & make a judicial estimation. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
3. [The Living Word] Hebrews 4:12 (Greek, 2924) Kri-tee-kos = Decisive, critical & discriminative. For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

D. Biblical Examples

1. 1 Corinthians 11:31 - 32 - Honest self -examination. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.
2. 1 Corinthians. 12:7 - 8 & 10c - Gifts of the Holy Spirit. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*. ⁸for to one is given to another discerning of spirits.
3. Matthew 18:15 - 22 - Loving confrontation, discipline & forgiveness - Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother

A. John 20:23 - Whoever's sins you forgive, they are forgiven; [and] whoever's [sins] you retain, they are retained.

4. 1 Corinthians 4:21 - 6:8 - Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?

5. Proverbs 18:17 - The first *one* to plead his cause *seems* right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him.

E. Biblical Attitudes

1. 2 Timothy 2:24 - 26 - And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,
2. Ephesians 4:1 - 3, 15, 29 – 32 - Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth..

3. Galatians 5:13 - 15 - For you, brethren, have been called to liberty. through love serve one another.

4. Galatians. 6:1 -2 - you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness,

5. Romans 14:13 - Therefore let us not judge one another anymore

F. Biblical Warnings

1. Matthew 5:21 - 24 & 43 - 48 - First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift

2. Matthew 18:23 – 35 - “I do not say to you to forgive up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

3. Mark 11:25 - 26 - And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

4. Romans 12:17 – 21 - Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

5. Proverbs 6:16 - 19 - The *thing* the Lord hates is one who sows discord among brethren.

6. Romans 16:17 - note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

7. Proverbs 17:14 - 15 & 18:19 - He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike *are* an abomination to the L-rd.

II. THE PROBLEM OF PERSONAL PERCEPTION

Perception = An impression of someone / something formed by our limited knowledge & understanding of the complexities of life gained through our years of experiences & the various influences of our family, friends & foes. It is how our mind will, & emotions have been trained over time to respond / react to different circumstances. Another meaningful term that is used to describe our own unique outlook on life is "*our frame of reference*".

A. Biblical Examples In The Lives of Godly Men

1. Samuel - 1 Sam. 16:1 – 13: vs. 16:6 - And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the L-RD'S anointed [is] before him. I Samuel 16:7 But the L-RD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for [the L-RD sees] not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the L-RD looks on the heart.

2. Joshua - Joshua 9:1 - 15 - The Gibeonites deceive Joshua.

3. Abraham - Gen. 20:1 - 18 - Genesis 20:11 - And Abraham said, Because I thought, Surely the fear of God [is] not in this place; and they will slay me for my wife's sake.

4. David - 1 Samuel 25:1 - 38 - Abigail prevents David from killing Nabal.

5. Peter - Matthew 16:13 - 17 & 21 - 23 - Peter declares Y'shua the Messiah, then refuses to accept his atoning death.

6. Paul - Acts 23:1 - 5 - Paul unknowingly reviles the High Priest.

a. Romans 14:1 - 23 - Romans 14:4 - Who are you that judges another man's servant? to his own master he stands or falls. Yes, he shall be upheld: for God is able to make him stand. (:10) But why do you judge your brother? or why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Messiah. (:13) Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in [his] brother's way.

III. THE PROCESS OF PROPER PERCEPTION = RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

1. Be aware of & be diligent to assimilate all available information. GET all sides of the issue. John 7:24

2. Prayerfully ponder all the evidence, seek wise counsel & allow G-d to speak to the issue anyway he wants.

3. GO to the person & be QUICK to LISTEN, SLOW to SPEAK & SLOW to ANGER; for our anger is not the work of God's righteousness. (James 1:19 - 20; Pro.16:32)

4. Treat every person with the same respect that you want to be used when it is your opportunity to receive correction. (Luke 6:31)
 - A. Hebrews 12:5-11)
5. Use scriptural discernment, but don't pass judgment on someone yourself. Use the counsel of wise leadership (Proverbs 11:14) Always keep a heart attitude focused on merciful restoration. Love believes the best, hopes for the best, endures the worst & (Praise the L-RD) never fails!