

(ABC's that threaten Christian living)

'Xamining And Judging

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1986, (Rev. 99)

Timeless Truths (Why should I control my 'xamining and judging?)

1. God made mankind with a certain ability to examine or judge his own actions and the actions of others. The apostle Paul stated this fact when he challenged the Jews who judged themselves to be better than the Gentiles because the Gentiles didn't have the Mosaic Law. Paul stated that God placed a moral compass called a conscience inside man's mind which allows him to accuse or excuse himself or others in relationship to sin, Rom. 2:14-15. However, man's moral ability to judge can malfunction because he seeks his own will and not God's will, Jn. 5:30.
2. Man's ability to judge between good and evil can be clouded, Gen. 3:5-7; and can express partiality or favoritism, Rom. 2:11; whereas, God's judgment is always righteous, John 5:30; Ps. 96:13, and always according to truth, Rom. 1:32; 2:2.
3. There is coming a time when God will judge all things, Jn. 12:48; Rom. 2:6,16; 2 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 10:30; 12:23; Acts 17:31. Christians must be careful never to take over the task of judgment that belongs to God, 1 Cor. 4:5.
4. Christians have the responsibility to judge matters of wrong doing among themselves, 1 Cor. 5:3,12; 6:2-4; 10:15; 11:13. However, they must guard against five types of incorrect judgment.
 - A. Hypocritical judgment, Rom. 2:1,3; Mat. 7:1-5. Hypocritical judgment would be habitual criticalness and rejection of others without dealing with similar problems in one's own life.
 - B. Snap judgment, Jn. 7:24,51. This is passing judgment on others without all the facts.
 - C. Self-centered judgment, 2 Cor. 10:12; Jn. 8:15. This is where the individual Christian becomes the standard for comparison instead of the Word of God and the life of Christ.
 - D. Biased judgment, Rom. 14:3-4,10,13; Col. 2:16. This is where a Christian quarrels over varying opinions, passing judgment on his opponent, while trying to change his viewpoint.
 - E. Pseudo judgment, Ja. 4:11. This is where Christians either change the meaning of the Word of God or use the Word of God in such a way to speak evil of another Christian.

Practical Prescriptions (How can I control my 'xamining and judging?)

1. Perform the task of self examination and judgment!

"But let a man examine himself.... For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged," 1 Cor. 11:28,31.

2. Prevent yourself from judging others for the same things you do!

"Therefore 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," Rom. 2:1

3. Ponder on the fact that God will judge you on how you live your life!

"...But let each one take heed how he builds.... ...Each man's work will become manifest, for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work.... If anyone's work ... endures, he will receive a reward," 1 Cor. 3:12-15; Rom 14:10-12.

4. Practice building up others rather than tearing down others!

"Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way," Rom. 14:13 (1 Cor. 10:29-33).