

A complaint about Isolation: Members of churches that believe they are the **only ones who have the truth**, generally throw suspicion on other groups. I have been a member of congregations whose main diet in sermons and Bible studies was how wrong other churches were.

When encouraged to evangelize, evangelism consisted of telling people from other churches how wrong they were. This resulted in almost no outside friends.

Do you see the problem expressed above? “no outside friends”, instead of “no success in evangelism”

Does “if none go with me, I still will follow” have meaning?

Members of the body of Christ have the conviction that the love and sacrifice of Christ constrains us to judge or regard others not according to flesh, but Spirit 2Co 5:14-16.

The world would be happy if we were to be ordinary lights (good neighbors, citizens, etc). But, to be a spiritual light to the world requires careful judgmental love. We must never cover His light. The scriptures equip us for good works 2Ti 3:17 and servants of God are known for our faith, labor of love, enduring hope 1TH 1:2,3 We always thank God for all of you, remembering you in our prayers and continually recalling before our God and Father your work of faith, your labor of love, and your enduring hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are not our own light, but (Matthew 5:14-16) "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all {who are} in the house. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may SEE your good works and GLORIFY your Father in heaven.

But what is the light within us? It depends. If our eyes are fixed on Christ (Heb 12:2), we have good eyesight and Mat 6:22,23 The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

Worldly light accepts (loves) all doctrines, deeds and spirits like the gardener that gives the same care for the weeds as the fruitful plants. ROM 12:9 {Let} love be without dissimulation (hypocrisy). Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. What's the difference?

The world, including our complainer, may believe that it is unloving and un-Christ-like to judge at all since He said in MAT 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

They concentrate on “Peace on earth, good will toward man” by the love that He showed for sinners and forget that He also condemned sinners. But, consider the context of Rom 11. God gave up on His children over and over because of rebellion, Notice, they were cast away, broken off, cut off. There is no peace on earth without peace with God.

Rom 11:22 Behold, the goodness and severity ... What would you do if your son rebelled against you? We would not kill him, but God did! He slew His own children!

Context of Jer 14:11,12 sins of Manasseh 15:4, corrupted the house of the Lord, served Baals - God would kill them with sword, ... Should we whitewash the character of God to be more "lovable"?

God also teaches us in JOH 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment. 2JO 1:6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

If someone brought a spouse to worship, happily married, yet living in adultery, how would you judge them? (1Co 5) What about Zimri and Cozbi in Num 25? In the nation of Israel, this was punishable by death. Phinehas judged according to the will of God. Did he act in love? See Num 25:11 “Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned My wrath away from the Israelites; for he was zealous for

My sake among them, so that I did not consume the Israelites in My zeal.

Could Phinehas have walked in love without knowing what God wanted? Can you walk in love w/o knowing the commands of God?

Pharisees did not have the love of God, but they had the popular religious following. Christ told his disciples to beware of them because they passed over judgment and the love of God. LUK 11:42 But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Are we likewise wrong in our judgments? Do we keep some commands while overlooking others?

Context of Mt 7: Jesus instructs weak, worldly followers: (Matthew 6:30-7:6 KJV) Judge not... warning is to those that know less than they think, they have vision problems. They are babes who can't see clearly to help others until they have searched, knocked and learned from the Father.

The spiritually wise servant knows how to help others. If one brother has a mote (small spiritual problem) in his eye - have compassion Jud 1:22,23, there are also dogs and swine, hate even their garments - do not give dogs and swine what is holy Mat 7:6 YOU must judge. How can we know the difference without judging?

1. Judgment in when and what to say - spiritual reality is based on revelation: say it like it is (1Pet 4:11). Like Jesus "as I hear I judge" in Joh 5:30 (not our thoughts, but His will).
2. Judgment in action - take action regarding something or someone in the church concerning words or deeds only 1Cor 5:12,13, not outsiders
3. It takes judgment to judge, but it is commanded. 1CO 10:15 I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.

Paul recognized God as the One Who would finally judge him, yet he was confident of the verdict. 2TI 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Paul had told the Corinthians in 1CO 2:15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. The "ALL THINGS" are the things revealed. Those things NOT revealed are secret. Like WHO receives the penalty or rewards, God decides that.

2. Don't JUDGE what is NOT revealed regarding something or someone (not with respect to someone's motive) We may be mistaken. Matters of the heart are not revealed without revelation. 1Co 12:10 discerning of spirits... as in Act 5:3 Ananias and Saphira

Paul's own judgment was also limited in this area. 1CO 4:3 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. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Paul had said: 1CO 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

How to be in the faith is revealed. 2CO 13:5 Examine (judge) yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Our judgment may be wrong (too high = pride, too low = cowardice) if not based on the standard measure of faith - Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think {of himself} more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

We can't show the proper love without the ability to judge others. Do we know the truth? Judging according to spiritual matters is to be done by those that know the truth. GAL 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Loving, judgmental discipline is involved in some cases. For the destruction of the old fleshly desires 1CO 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Some will say that doing it the Lord's way will drive the sinner away.

(2Cor 2:6-7) Sufficient to such a man {is} this punishment, which {was inflicted} of many. So that contrariwise ye {ought} rather to forgive {him}, and comfort {him}, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.

If one is withdrawn from, socializing is stopped. Meetings with him are for the purpose of leading him to repentance.

(1TIM 1:20) Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme. False teachers don't like to be judged, but are treated the same as the fornicator in 1Co 5 Maintaining the rule or discipline of Christ means practicing judgmental love.

Paul taught that discipline is love: 2CO 2:4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.

Unlike Paul, the rebellious and weak see no cause for rejoicing over discipline: 2CO 7:9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. All they see is the grief Heb 12:11 No discipline seems enjoyable...

Look at yourself in the mirror of God's Word before looking at others. Even if the beam is gone, we have the scars left behind. 1JO 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

You must judge how to pray for someone who is still having trouble with temptation after repenting: 1JO 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin {which is} not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

Love w/o judgment is impossible. If you judge someone to be sinning, speak God's Word (Eph 4:15) in love (James 5:19-20) Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converts the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

1Jn 1:9 - forgiveness is conditional

Mat 18:15-17 - process of restoring the wayward (with God's help)

Rom 16:17 - take note of those in opposition to Christ

1Co 5:5,11 - process of withdrawal, no social ties

2Th 3:6 - withdraw from disorderly: those who reject practice

Heb 10:26 - those who know and reject truth are without hope

Tit 3:10 - reject a factious man after two warnings 1Th 5:14 too

2Jo 1:9-11 - reject them that reject truth

Gal 6:16 - walk according to the rule

Jud 1:22,23 - make a distinction between weak and rebellious

Rom 12 We are to be at peace with all men, if possible. (moral matters of indifference Rom 14)