

Inspecting, Judging, Condemning - Fine Lines!

Connections and Comparisons is an ongoing weekly series that deals with many scriptures in the Bible, some of which are not commonly addressed. The purpose of this series is to examine the scriptures at hand comparing what is said and looking at the connections within.

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:

As Christians we want to make absolutely certain that we fully understand the differences between inspecting, judging, and condemning. Many people read this verse of scripture and hold fast to it alone not reading elsewhere what is written concerning judging. It is essential to understand that as Christians we are told to judge all things and this is not a contradiction to what Jesus has said. You must learn the differences.

Romans 14:1-13

1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.

2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

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.**

The Apostle Paul is directly speaking to Christians here. He is not speaking of those that are in the world who have not yet come out of the world.

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.**

5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

If the Sabbath day rest was to be observed in the New Testament as it was in the Old Testament then the Apostle Paul would not say "One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." We learn elsewhere in Romans as well as in Colossians that after Christ came we were delivered from the Old Testament Law. "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth." (Rm 10:4) "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: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." (Col 2:16-17) The Law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ and only a shadow of what was to come. "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a

schoolmaster.” (Gal 3:24-25) “For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.” (Heb 10:1)

6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

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.**

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

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.**

It is very important to understand “that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.” It is also important to recognize that we do not sit in the judgment seat and therefore we are not judges to judge and to condemn after the flesh. However a person's actions will reveal whether they are a good tree or whether or not they are a corrupt tree. For us to properly discern this we must know the Word of God and have the Spirit of God. So we must inspect a person to see what they are producing and this must be done after the Spirit of which we are to judge all things including matters in the Church instead of taking it before the unbelievers and to judges and magistrates.

Luke 6:43-46

43 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

44 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

The answer to Inspecting, Judging, Condemning, and the Fine Lines is to know whether you are judging after the flesh or after the Spirit. We are told that we are to judge all things! This is to be done after the Spirit!

1 Corinthians 2:10-16

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

We have the mind of Christ because we have the Spirit of Christ dwelling inside of us. Therefore "he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man" "for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

1 Corinthians 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.**

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.

Though the Apostle Paul says, "I judge not mine own self" and "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come" he just previously said, "he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man" "for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." He then continues and questions are we unworthy to judge and is there not any that can judge between brethren?

1 Corinthians 6:1-8

1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

5 I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?

6 But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.

7 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?

8 Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.

The Apostle Paul then goes on to exercise judgment against a brother, however it is for the saving of the person's soul not for them to be damned.

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

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.

6 Your glorying is not good. **Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?**

7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? **do not ye judge them that are within?**

13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

However, after a punishment is rendered by the Church if the person is repentive, we being not ignorant of satan's devices, are to forgive and comfort such a one confirming your love toward them unless they "should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow."

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

5 But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all.

6 Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many.

7 So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.

8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him.

9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;

11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

We also are to inspect ourselves whether we be in the faith. We are to prove ourselves and this is to be done by examining the scriptures whether we are in the faith or not.

2 Corinthians 13:5-6

5 Examine 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?

6 But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.

We are not to speak evil one of another. “If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.” (James 2:8-9)

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?

James 5:9

9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

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