

## "I'll Be The Judge?"

Romans 14: 13 - 19

December 12, 2010

### God Requires That His Children Not Pass Judgment Upon Who Others May Or May Not Be, (vs. 1 - 23)

- I May Not Pass Judgment Upon What Another May Or May Not Believe Is Right, (vs. 13 - 19)
  1. We are commanded to decide in advance not to be a stumbling block to any, (vs. 13 - 15)
    - a. Now is the time to stop what we have done and decide not to cause others to stumble, (vs. 13); *"My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, 'You sit here in a good place,' while you say to the poor man, 'You stand over there,' or, 'Sit down at my feet,' have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?" (James 2:1-7)*
    - b. Now is the time to realize that it doesn't matter whether it is ok; it matters how it is perceived, (vs. 14); *"Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ." (1 Corinthians 8:8-12)*
    - c. Now is the time to not be a source of grieving but be a source of life to a brother, (vs. 15); *"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5:1-2)*  
*"Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:7-10)*
  2. Recognizing the time, we must prepare in advance so that nothing we do be spoken of as evil, (vs. 16)
    - a. The reputation of the Kingdom of God is at stake, (vs. 17); *"Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, 'The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.'" (Luke 17:20-21)*
    - b. The reputation of God is at stake, (vs. 18); *"But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you. For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest he is going to you of his own accord. With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel. And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will. We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man." (2 Corinthians 8:16-21)*
    - c. The unity of the body of Christ is at stake, (vs. 19); *"So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will." (2 Timothy 2:22-26)*

- I May Not Pass Judgment Upon What God Himself Has Purposed To Do, (vs. 20 – 23)