

I. The Need to Judge

- A. To rule is to judge (see Exodus 18:13, 15-16; 2 Samuel 15:1-4; 19:8); 23:3-4)
- B. Life is often judgment
- C. The teaching of Jesus on judging rightly
  - 1. "Judge not!" (Matthew 7:1-5; see 1 Corinthians 11:31)
  - 2. "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment." (John 7:24)
  - 3. we are instructed not to avoid judgment, but to do it right
    - a) to not be hypocrites
    - b) to not avoid questions
    - c) to not avoid answers

II. The Unrighteous Judgment of the Pharisees

- A. A high opinion of their own superior judgment (45-48)
- B. Anger at those who consider any other view (see Deuteronomy 27:26)
- C. Tribalism (see 1 Kings 14:25; Jonah 1:1; Nahum 1:1)
- D. A disregard for their own rules (see Deuteronomy 1:16-17; 17:6)

III. Do we judge justly?

- A. In all areas of life?
- B. Jesus Christ calls each of us to judge whether he is true
- C. Do not try to avoid a decision about Christ
- D. You are weird (see John 15:20; James 4:4; Mark 8:36)

IV. The Patient Work of God

- A. A glimpse of grace
- B. Nicodemus at night (see John 3:1-3, 16)
- C. Encouragement for the skeptical (see John 1:50)
- D. Who did Jesus come to save?