

# Live to the One who Judges Righteously.

Judge Not; Stop Fretting; Stop living life on our own...

By B. D. Tate

## The Tension: Do we Judge or Not?

The Bible has placed many tensions within its teachings. The tension is created when opposing themes are taught. They to the natural man are contradictions; however when dealing with sin nature and spiritual truth it is the tension that leads to rightly dividing the Word of God. If the tension is removed by denying one side or the other it will lead to error. For example, the Bible clearly teaches about predestination and free will. If we deny one of these over the other we will be to the left or the right of the truth. When we are able to reconcile them, keep them in tension, bring balance between them we will find our way along the straight and narrow course of grace and truth.

**The scripture clearly teaches us not to judge (Matt. 7:1); however, for free will beings to decide anything judgments are necessary.** In fact Paul wrote:

1Co 2:15 But he who is spiritual **judges all things**, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one.

Both sides of this issue are true it is in bringing them into tension or balance with each other that grace and truth are revealed.

I have made a great emphasis on the inner battle or war we struggle with every day in relationship to the law. Unbeknown

to us has been how far reaching the law is in our lives. I have declared to us that when we have **lost our peace**, we are stressed and fearful, we are issuing over guilt, condemnation, shame, feelings of inferiority, jealousy, envy, threatened, and insecure, that all of these types of things are like flags indicating we are wrestling with the law. The battle rages constantly and our peace is very fleeting **always being subject to our success at being able to justify or excuse our heart**. The enemy of our soul wants us to be under the law and the curse where we are powerless. **The victory over these things is to stay in God's peace**. When we entangle ourselves with evaluations, judgments, analyzing, and scrutinizing our affairs, situations, relationships we lose our peace, we become in bondage to the law again, and Christ profits us nothing (Gal. 5:2).

I have stressed that we need to clear the room of our heart of **all our cares** and give them to the Lord. It is written, (1Pe 5:7) **"...casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."** **When we give our life and surrender all to the Lord we will find peace**. Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled; neither let it be afraid." We are the ones troubling our heart with the cares of this life. In the parable of the sower and seed Jesus said:

Mr 4:19 **"and the cares of this world**, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things **entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful**.

We have all experienced the Christian life that is unfruitful. Maybe it is because we have not understood that by being filled or mindful with many cares it is causing us to be entangled and **lose our peace**. When we become so care filled and worried (having an anxious mind), because **we are in control**, thinking that

it is all up to us—we are responsible, we are in the way of God’s grace.

Remember this account from Luke 38:

8 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.

39 And **she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.**

40 **But Martha was distracted with much serving,** and she approached Him and said, "**Lord, do You not care** that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "**Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.**

42 "But one thing is needed, and **Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.**"

Listen to Martha’s question to Jesus: “Lord, do you not care?” Isn’t that exactly what we all feel in regards to our life’s problems and situations? “Lord, do you not care?” Yet, God has sent His only begotten Son into the world to save us. God has sent us His Word and His Spirit. God has made us alive who were dead in trespasses and sins. God has given to us abundant grace in His promises towards us and the gift of righteousness. Ultimately He has saved us from the world, the fall, and the curse becoming for us our life, health, and peace. **In short, He saves us to the uttermost not to return to the status quo life but to live to newness of life in Christ—He couldn’t care more! Therefore remember that we no longer belong to us we belong to Him and that includes all of the affairs of our life.** As long as we keep taking them back and trying to fix things, correct the wrongs, hold

others to account as we see it, we are in the way of His grace and truth for our lives.

I Pet. 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:**

22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";  
23 **who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;**

**Under the law we were responsible to judge rightly.**

Under the law we were responsible to make things right, correct, bring to account, hold up the standard so that good won over evil.

**Under grace that all changed.** We are to follow in Christ's steps who did not live life for himself (Phil. 2:5-8) but yielded to the Spirit completely so that when others reviled He did not revile back; when he suffered threats, lies, manipulations, He wasn't threatened, but committed, (walked in, stayed in peace from God and trusted, believed, and lived) Himself to the One who judges righteously. **Jesus showed us how to live to the One who judges righteously.**

**I want to share ways that Jesus lived to the One who judges righteously.**

The reason we are fretful, fearful, anxious, and **have lost peace** is because we are judging twenty-four seven. We judge this person or that one, this situation or that, read between the lines, jump to conclusions, accuse in our thoughts and words, run down our neighbor, and get entangled with this plot or that vain speculation. Jesus didn't do this and said to us:

Matt. 7:1 Judge not; lest you be judged.

Mt 7:2 “For with what judgment you judge, **you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.**”

With every effort we make to judge we are bringing back judgment upon ourselves. We in essence have fallen from grace and walked back under the law where the law with no partiality and without passion brings it back to the same measure we put out.

How do we know we are back under the law? Check one thing, **have we lost our peace?**

## Let’s look at what Jesus did!

Joh 8:15 “You **judge** according to the flesh; I **judge** no one.

Jesus said that natural man judges according to the flesh. **This begins to make a distinction between judging according to the flesh and judging according to the Spirit.** Jesus who walked in full grace and full anointing in the Spirit said “I judge no one.” That seems impossible to the natural man. Jesus couldn’t possibly be like us; he must have been God in the flesh and God has the power to not judge. Yet, the whole gospel of Jesus’ incarnation is revealed that He was fully human (although being fully God) and while living upon the earth lived just as a human being (Phil. 2:5-8).

Then Jesus went onto say:

Joh 8:16 “**And yet if I do judge,** My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I *am* with the Father who sent Me.

Jesus judges no one; “**and yet if I do judge**, My judgment is true.” What does this mean? Does Jesus judge or not? Let me put it this way, when people tell us that this person or that person is biased (implying that people can be unbiased), they are saying that person’s comments are not valid. The truth of the matter is this **no one is unbiased**, we are all influenced by perspectives, experiences, our natural mind, and sin nature. The answer in life **isn’t to find truth in the unbiased** but to realize it is about **which bias is the best bias to be biased with**.

In making that point let’s consider then that Jesus is saying I do not judge **ACCORDING TO THE FLESH!** However, if I do judge (while in the flesh as a human being) **my judgment is true** because it is **NOT MY JUDGMENT** it is the Father’s judgment. Or as I was stating, “It isn’t about not judging at all but which is the best judgment to be judging with!”

**If we judge according to the flesh** our judgment is wrong, blinded, misguided, presumptuous and more. When God chose David to be king for example all of his brothers were older, bigger, stronger, maybe even better looking, but what did the scripture testify?

1Sa 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. **For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**"

The flesh judges outwardly, jumping to conclusions, blinded by pride and prestige, money, favoritism, selfishness, greed, lusts, and surely we can all understand, without full knowledge.

When Jesus judged He did it as a **man under Spiritual authority and guidance**. His judgments in truth **were not even His own**. Consider these verses about Jesus' testimony concerning judgments:

Joh 8:26 "I have many things to say and to **judge** concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and **I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.**"

Joh 12:47 "And if anyone hears My words **and does not believe, I do not judge him**; for I did not come to **judge the world but to save the world.**

48 "He who rejects Me, **and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.**

Jesus is saying that as a man **I don't involve myself with judging according to the flesh**—at all! Further I wasn't sent to judge the world but to save it. If I judge, when I must, **I judge according to the Spirit**. Even when I must judge it is not me, but the words that I speak they judge. The words that Jesus spoke **are not His words** but the things which He heard from the Father to speak.

## Judging but Not Their Own...

**When someone is under authority** and has been given the task of making judgments or decisions they are not making those judgments **on their own**. For example, as a quarterback under the coach's authority every decision has been planned out. The play that is called, the possible audible at the line of scrimmage, which back to hand the ball to or what receivers to pass to, are all already judged. In most cases a pass to any receiver is a judgment

decision that the coach has already authorized. If a quarterback finds no one open and runs the ball to get away from rushers trying to tackle him, even this decision is within the design of playing that position. **What this means is that every judgment or decision that a quarterback makes that is favorable, designed, hoped for or even expected, is not his decision. The quarterback's judgments and decisions are not his own they were anticipated by the design of the play and the coaches.**

When a quarterback takes upon himself to make an audible not authorized, to continually make bad decisions (even run the play wrong), to throw to covered receivers, forcing plays, causing fumbles, ***then those judgments are his own***. Eventually if a quarterback does not comply, does not come under the coach's authority, he will lose his job and be benched.

An outstanding quarterback executes the coach's plays to the fullest. He is not a rogue doing his own thing, making judgments on his own; ***he is the expressed will in action of the coach***. This is exactly what Jesus is saying in this verse:

Joh 5:30 "I can of Myself do nothing. ***As I hear, I judge***; and ***My judgment is righteous***, because ***I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me***.

When Jesus says "Judge not..." He is saying stop acting like mere men do. Stop looking at life as a natural man. Stop fussing, stop fuming, stop fretting, and stop worrying, as if it was all on us—according to the flesh. **It stopped being on us when we gave ourselves to the Lord and became born again.**

***Our born again experience is huge*** it translated us from the law, judgment, death, the curse, and the fall, without God and without hope, ***into*** the kingdom of His dear Son! We are His sons



and daughters and if He gave us His only begotten Son how with Him will He not give us all things?

Ro 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him **also freely give us all things**?

Col 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and **conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love**,

## Let Peace Rule All Judgment

We are to live in the Spirit, *in newness of life*, and let the **peace of God rule** our hearts. When we judge according to the flesh, which for most of us is just about all the time, we are acting on our own. We are judging from our perspective, our knowledge, and our bias.

When Jesus said,

Joh 14:27 "**Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you**; not as the world gives do I give to you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

He was telling us to stop living like the world does **and live as He did—in the Father's peace**. God the Father judges righteously, He knows what has happened, what was behind it, what motivated it, He knows all things, what is going to happen, what do we know?

Ro 12:19 Beloved, **do not avenge yourselves**, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "**Vengeance is Mine**, I will repay," says the Lord.

Heb 10:30 For we know Him who said, "**Vengeance is Mine**, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "**The LORD will judge His people.**"

If you are like me we are thinking that God's vengeance means after this world, at the last day, in the judgment finally God will repay. This is true but it also means the Lord judges his people and repays what someone does if we will give place to wrath! ***If we will not take the bait*** and get in the way by becoming part of the problem in the flesh again but continue to live to the Spirit—this keeps God in control (And us in His peace). Besides most of the actions, deeds, words that have come against us will be taken care of through the law!

Gal. 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

**8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption,** but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

If we think about it we struggle a lot with the law—twenty-four seven. The law's work brings condemnation, guilt, shame, reproach, including the sowing and reaping process. As much as we wrestle with it ***so does everyone*** else especially if they do wrong.

We are admonished again and again ***to put on the new man*** in righteousness and holiness and walk according to the Spirit so that we do not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. We are cursing ourselves when we operate in the flesh to judge, evaluate, and bring others to account because with what measure we put out it comes back to us. **The place of peace is under authority**

submitting to God's rule and reign in our lives which means stop judging ***according to the flesh.***

Col 3:15 And **let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called** in one body; and be thankful.

And,

Phil. 4:6 ***Be anxious for nothing,*** but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

**7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

## The Right Question

Therefore the question becomes it is not that we don't judge ***but which is the best judgment we are to judge with...***when it comes to the flesh or judging according to the flesh we are **not** do this **AT ALL**; HOWEVER, in the Spirit, walking according to the Spirit, we judge all things (but it is not our judgment):

1Co 2:15 But he who is spiritual **judges all things**, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one.

When **WE** judge it is of the flesh; when we allow the Spirit to judge through us, we judge all things righteously...**because it is received from the Lord.** As one under authority our judgment is not even our own and in this place we are guarding our peace and staying in it. We have removed the personal defense and personal

attack response, by realizing we don't belong to us to need to do this anymore. We belong to God. We are and can rest in knowing that God's acceptance **is greater** than anyone's judgment towards us. We are secure and need not resist evil because it has nothing in us anymore—we died to the law and now live in newness of life. Let us stay submitted to God and resist the devil by not taking the bait to get us to judge according to the flesh.

## Guard Your Peace!

Walk in peace, stay in peace, and guard your peace, because that is the place of power in the Spirit. When we lose our peace we **lose our place in Christ and step out from under grace and authority**. This is what the enemy wants us to do. Then we can understand better what Paul was getting after when he wrote, *“Finally brethren, whatever things are true...”* in verse (8) telling us to stay spiritually minded because **that is where peace abides**. Meditate on spiritual things and do not let your heart be troubled by the cares of this world. Do not take the bait of defending your life and becoming entangled with judgments, evaluations, and accountabilities. This only leads us **to lose our peace** and become in bondage to the law again (Gal. 5:1). Peace is power! When we remain in His peace His power is released to work miracles.

When we are in peace we are not striving against the Spirit. We are not distracted by hurts, pains, frustrations, judgments, condemnations, insecurities, fears, or even human anger. We are in a place where we can hear God and be led by the Spirit. God will never leave us to our troubles and He has said to cast these cares upon Him; therefore, we can trust God to move to deal with every care and trouble on our behalf—as we come

under His authority. He cares intimately about the details of our life but as Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His RIGHTEOUSNESS, and all these things will be added to us.” Abide in His love; we are to know how much God loves us always and constantly. He loves us as His only begotten Son. As we abide in His love and peace we will have ears to hear and eyes to see that will make judgments, evaluations, and analysis **that agree with the Holy Spirit**. When we judge according to the flesh we make things worse, we are provocative, we are part of the problem; however, if we wait in peace, respond in peace, in His love, we diffuse situations, we give place for God’s Spirit to move.

In His peace we see things we’d never see. In His Peace we say things that we’d never say. In His peace we know things we’d never know. In peace this is where we are knowing, seeing, and speaking as if the very oracles of God. We get to use His words, His eyes, His knowing, His stuff and it works far better. We are not out on our own we are under His authority and that brings peace and power to every situation. This is the meaning of the following verse:

1Pe 4:11 If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the **oracles of God**. If anyone ministers, **let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

God’s grace supplies the answers, the responses, the actions we are to take as if God were calling every play of our life—and that is His will. As we have come to understand, **the law** demands and places the responsibility upon us, we are to set things right, we are to judge rightly; however **under grace** God

supplies, God gives the words, the answers, the righteous judgments we are to live by, He corrects, He sets things straight on our behalf as we stay in His peace! Remember Jesus is the Prince of Peace and in that peace God's kingdom is manifest—His will is done.

## **In Conclusion: We don't even judge ourselves!**

The apostle Paul wrote:

1Co 4:3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, **I do not even judge myself**.

Most people are harder on themselves than anyone has ever been. That is because we know what we've done, what we think, what we've said, **and it ain't pretty**. Many of us are readily convicted of guilt and have areas that we'd never want others to see or know. We don't need anyone else to judge us we already do a good enough job without them. Then when it comes to the law and knowing that God is going to hold us accountable for every idle word we have ever spoken, let alone the thoughts of our heart, well there is no hope.

What in the world is Paul talking about when he dismisses the judgment of others and then says he doesn't even judge himself? This is crazy. Good for you brother Paul that you don't judge yourself. God must have put on you a special anointing that is beyond me.

***The Answer from God's Word...***

When I belonged to me I was responsible; when I was bought by Christ that makes Him responsible. When I belonged to me I was the judge; now that I belong to Him He is the judge. If all my sin is forgiven because He paid the debt I could not pay then there is no more to be paid. My forgiveness means I've been given righteousness through His blood. **If the judge of all the earth says I'm not guilty who am I to say I am?**

This is message of Romans 8

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**

33 **Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.**

34 **Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.**

35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**

36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

38 ***For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,***

39 ***nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

**There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus** (Rom. 8:1). If we are born again we are joined of the Lord and belong to Him and to His kingdom (I Cor. 6:17). If we

judge ourselves according to the flesh, **we are denying the truth of the gospel of grace.** We are practicing the old ways and as a dog returns to his vomit so are we if we entangle ourselves in self recrimination! Stop judging ourselves! We are to stop seeing the old ways and the old nature and judging by them. **If we judge,** then we judge ourselves **according to what Christ has done!** Give praise and glory to the forgiveness of sins and the gift of righteousness in Him (Rom. 5:17)! When we judge according to the flesh we lose our peace. **When we judge according to His righteousness and the Spirit we stay in peace. Amen.**