

### **THREE PROHIBITIONS FOR JUDGING OTHERS (part-one of a four-part study).**

To judge or not to judge? That has been a controversial question within the Christian faith throughout Church history. Everyone agrees that when it comes to issues of clearcut, black and white morality, we as followers of our Savior must call out and confront sin in our own lives and in the lives of others when such behavior violates the moral standards revealed in the Word of God. But what if that is not the issue and the individual gives every indication of being sincere? Does sincerity automatically make one exempt from being scrutinized for wrongdoing? Not necessarily. We know from experience that sincerity alone does not always immunize us from being *sincerely wrong*. So, when it comes to Christian service, there is an equally unequivocal standard revealed in 1 Corinthians 3:10-11—

**“According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”**

Paul declares in the verses above, that service for Christ must be carried out in harmony with the redemptive purpose of God which was fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ; consisting of His death, burial and resurrection on behalf of a lost and fallen human race. That redemptive accomplishment must now be applied throughout the Church Age by means of evangelism and discipleship, commonly referred to as the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). When service for Christ is in harmony with that purpose, it will be regarded by our Savior as gold, silver and precious stones. When it is not, it will be viewed by Him as wood, hay and straw (1 Corinthians 3:12). As a result, we must exercise discernment (a form of judgment), when it comes to the kind of service we should render, in furthering the cause of Christ within our spheres of influence. With that standard for service clearly established, the Word of God does provide us with three significant prohibitive guidelines in regard to this issue of when we should and should not judge others.

(1) WE ARE PROHIBITED FROM JUDGING OTHERS ON ISSUES OF CONSCIENCE

(2) WE ARE PROHIBITED FROM JUDGING OTHERS IN MATTERS OF MOTIVATION

(3) WE ARE PROHIBITED FROM JUDGING OTHERS PRIOR TO JUDGING ONESELF

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**Don't forget! Our next post in this study will be on Saturday, October 8**