

A Righteous Judge

- Opening Scripture: John 7:24
 - “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”
- What does it mean to judge?
 - Greek: to distinguish; decide (mentally or judicially); by implication, to try, condemn, punish; avenge; conclude; call in question; to scrutinize; investigate; interrogate; determine; examine; search; to separate thoroughly; to withdraw from/oppose; figuratively to discriminate; make to differ; discern; doubt; be partial; stagger; waver; a decision for or against (crime)
 - dictionary: to pass sentence on; to form an opinion of; decide upon critically; to decide or settle authoritatively; to infer, think, or hold as an opinion; conclude about or assess; to make mental judgment
- When is it improper to judge?
 - when we are guilty of the same thing (Matthew 7:1-5, Romans 2:1-2)
 - on matters of personal conscience (Romans 14:1-6)
 - some things are personal convictions; however, others have already been judged by the Word of God
- God will be our ultimate Judge at the last Day (Hebrews 12:23)
 - His Word is our standard of judgment (John 12:48-50, II Timothy 3:16-17)
 - we will be judged according to our works (I Peter 1:17)
 - also, God will judge the thoughts and intents of our heart, even if we never act on them (Hebrews 4:12)
- Luke 6:43-45/ Matthew 7:15-20
 - although God is our ultimate Judge, people can know us by our fruit (Matthew 7:16, 20)
 - what is seen is an indication of what is in the heart (Luke 6:45)
 - therefore, our lives must still be an example to others
- Conclusion
 - we can’t effectively judge others if we are guilty of the same thing
 - however, some things have already been judged by God through His Word
 - that is why we can know others by their fruit
 - a person’s actions will tell who they are when compared to the Bible
 - God’s Word is the ultimate standard of judgment