

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Sons of Most High: Administer God's gov't among men - imitate Father - v35-36 - matters of conscience: *judgment* - v37 judge in courtroom
2. The necessity of moral judgment. Creation is *good* [Gn 1:31]; man images God who is Judge. Everything is morally assessed: conscience.
3. 1st: know self as *son of Most High* [salvation], then differentiate *disciples* [v20] & *enemies* [v27] = "judge". Then treat as Father judges us in Jesus.
  - i. Gospel love: among disciples -> church: forebear & forgive: worship
  - ii. Gospel love among enemies: witness in view 2<sup>nd</sup> coming: FJ. Compassion w/ sober realism of Satan, sin, death, hatred.

**1st: The Context of Pharisaical Judgmentalism**

1. Prohibited from faultfinding while ignoring one's own sins: cruel, critical.
  - i. Lk 5:21 displays of divine compassion & love - Phars are cynical
  - ii. v30 J eating w/ sinners, but Phars hypercritical;
  - iii. v33 judging kata their traditions re: fasting;
  - iv. 6:2 probing in order to find fault;
  - v. 6:7 HS here informs of motives - intent on finding fault iva accuse;
  - vi. 6:11 Phars misjudge - we are to judge as we are judged by Father
  - vii. We are to judge - but not like Pharisees - Mt 23:23
2. Hyperbole underscores importance: do not judge as sinners judge.

**2nd: Disciples of Jesus Are Not to Judge**

1. *judge* = court: differ good from bad; guilt/innocence; reward/punish
2. Here *judge* is a synonym *condemn* so as to *pardon*.
3. We must make moral assessments.
  - i. Mt 7:6 *dogs & swine* = obstinate opposition: context v1-2
  - ii. Jn 7:24 Jesus is being misjudged as Sabbath-breaker - is He?
  - iii. Jesus' example of judging - Phars: Lk 11:42-45 hypocrisy; Lk 13:32; Mt 7:6, 15; 12:34; Jn 8:44. Also chides disciples - Mt 16:23
4. We are to make ethical evaluations - not superficial evaluations according to value-systems that are not based on God's Word.
  - i. Put best construction on motives - moral confusion [Isa 5:20].
  - ii. Judge in alignment w/ Father's common grace on men & His judgment of us in Jesus: today is the day of salvation.

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iii. A censorious spirit is prohibited - Mat 7:1-6. Having removed log, see specks, dogs & pigs - keeping your eyes on Jesus.

5. Conscience points to God as Judge and Judgment Day - Rm 2:1-3; 3:9-10

**Applic #1: Keep the Day of Judgment in View**

1. Ps 73 - Asaph was misjudging things.
  - i. v17 Asaph realigns w/ eternal perspective & *perceived their end*
  - ii. v23-25 - never forget grace
2. What is *their end*? Separation from Christ - eternal death.

**Applic #2: Remember, We are Not the Judge - Christ Is.**

1. Rm 14:4, 10-13 there is one Judge & one judgment seat - God's.
2. Jms 4:11-12 we are doers, not judges; we discern, not judge.
3. We must not preempt Jesus as Judge. Don't pluck up tares - Mt 13:30.

**Applic #3: We Must Repent Of and Be Warned Against a Censorious Spirit**

1. Jude 1:16 those who will be exposed & judged at 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
  - i. *grumblers* - *finding fault* - proud, manipulative, selfish
2. Why are we liable to be so critical? v17 we forget Father's grace in Jesus.
3. We are authorized to administer God's gov't of grace fully aware that Jesus is the Judge of mankind. We call men to reconciliation & peace w/ God.