

The Cure for Judging

Romans 14:10-13a

Paul's Aim:

1. That the greatness of the gracious gospel kingdom rule of Christ would not be obscured in any way
2. That Christians would with one voice – one confession – because with one heart – glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ according the Scriptures.
3. That the people of God might be a persevering, encouraged, hope-filled people, having the same mind with one another in Christ and abounding through the Holy Spirit – a truly God-filled people.
4. That each one in the church would, like Christ the head, not please themselves, but please his neighbor for good, for the building up of one another, and not destroy each other.

Paul's triple barrel shotgun to accomplish this:

- 1-4 – God has received and accepted them *presently*
- 5-9 – Christ in the *past* became their Master; Christ has bought them with his blood and is risen 2000 years ago – exalted – to be their Lord.
- 10-13a – *future* – the coming judgment of God in Christ

“Judge not your brother for God will judge him; judge yourself, for God will judge you!” Frederick Godet

Point One: What it means that every knee will bow and tongue confess to God

- He being dead yet speaks...

- It is universal; it is inescapable; it is definitive; it is part of the exaltation of the Lord Jesus.
- It is such a crowning blessing to God's people

What matter of joy to them it will be at the last day, to lift up their eyes and behold the person in whom they have trusted for salvation, to whom they have fled for refuge, upon whom they have built as their foundation for eternity, and whose voice they have often heard, inviting them to himself for protection and safety, coming to judge them. J. Edwards, The Final Judgment

Point Two: How this applies the question: why do you, the strong, judge your weak brother? Why do you, the weak, hold in contempt, your strong brother?

- A. How does your having an over-critical spirit or word help this glorious work of God? In either direction? Pay attention to yourself! Quit being such a nosy busy-body in the business of others on this score.
- B. Paul repeats the term ‘brother’ four times (2 in 10; 13, 15) – that person is your brother.

Applications:

- Does this mean there is no place for criticism?
- The need for all this in the world and in the church
- No picayune spirits