

The Community Judgment Seat, part 2

2 Chronicles 19:6 ⁶ He said to the judges, “Consider what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the Lord who is with you when you render judgment.

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 ⁹ I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; ¹⁰ I *did* not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. ¹¹ But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? ¹³ But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.

Judgment is deciding right and wrong for an individual or a group and then taking the action required by the judgment.

The action of removing unrepentant believers from fellowship is hard, but it is right. Separating ourselves from lost sinners because they sin, however, will only deny them the light they need to come to repentance.

Same sin, different action

Judgments are formed over time by information-gathering, discernment, observing actions, and examining fruit.

If we are hasty, judgmental, or disengaged, we lose God’s judgments, being left with a cheap substitute: our opinions!

We must operate within the proper sphere of judgment in order to make righteous judgments like our Father in heaven.

Chart

Making judgments **about** things/people can be done across the spheres. Making judgments **for** other spheres is where chaos enters and God’s order breaks down!

These spheres are divided by groupings of people, and the judgments made for each sphere must be made by those in authority in that sphere.

Psalm 105:7 ⁷ He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth.

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.

Like a river, sound judgments flow down from God, the Fountainhead, in one direction until they reach their destination.

Amos 5:24 ²⁴ “But let justice roll down like waters And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

If anyone in the procession rejects the judgments of God, then everyone under their authority suffers.

Or, if anyone in authority in any sphere makes judgments for any other sphere not their own, then chaos is the result.

Matthew 5:38-40 ³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴⁰ If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.

The Sermon on the Mount regulates personal morality and faith, but would be catastrophic if applied on a national level.

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed

Acts 5:27-29 ²⁷ When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.

When the rulers commanded them to do things God would not allow, they courageously declined. The chain of God’s judgments was broken; the rulers were out of their league!

Acts 4:24-30 ²⁴ And when they heard *this*, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, “O Lord, it is You who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ²⁵ who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, ‘Why did the Gentiles rage, And the peoples devise futile things? ²⁶ ‘The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.’ ²⁷ For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur. ²⁹ And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, ³⁰ while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”