

JUDGING

At the end of 2009, the Lord began to impress on me that in the next year I needed to be completely free from judging others. Since the Holy Spirit is convicting the world of sin (John 16:8), the church and me can let go of that job. It was never God's will for the church to judge anyway, but somewhere in history we must have decided the Spirit is not doing a good enough job. So those who were once servants of God have taken His place and embraced the judgment of others.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned” (Luke 6:37).

“Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you” (Matthew 7:1-2).

These are very strong Scriptures, but I guess many have decided they don't apply. I know I must have thought that because I have gone right on judging everyone and everything I behold. Much of this is due to the general feeling of inadequacy that rages through the church and leaves you with little choice but to harshly judge others so you can feel better about yourself.

There is something the Lord has been trying to show me about judging people still living in the world. It is not possible for someone in this place to know the Spirit of Truth or comprehend what it means to think as a believer. Still many in the church have chosen to judge and condemn what they call sin in the world. Calling something sin is much different than condemning the sinner.

“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you” (John 14:16-17).

The “world” means the power of sin and death. The words **“cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him”** means the world *lacks the favorable circumstances or the permission of law and custom to receive*. The traditions and customs of the world make it impossible for them receive the Truth.

When I saw this I asked the question, “then how can the Holy Spirit convict the world of sin if they cannot receive Him?” The Lord showed me that the Spirit creates situations that will reveal the truth to the conscience of someone and they have the choice to embrace or reject that revelation (see Romans 1:19-20). If they heed their own conscience, they are on their way to salvation. If they reject what they feel in their hearts to be true long enough, the Lord gives them over to a “severed conscience” and the result is great perversion (see Romans 1:24-25).

“Receive” means to take hold of something as to imitate it. The world lacks the power to even imitate the Truth. “See” means *there are no eyes to perceive the Spirit of Truth and the Spirit cannot render Himself visible to them; He cannot give His presence or power because their sight has been removed* (Ref. Thayer’s Greek Concordance).

A paraphrased version of John 14:16-17 would be: *The power of sin and death lacks the strength to take hold of or even imitate the Truth. Because it has no eyes to see the Truth and the Truth cannot even render itself visible to the world. The Truth cannot give His presence to those who have no sight.*

We are clearly instructed not to judge, and after seeing whom we are judging it seems ridiculous to even try to bring conviction on the world, especially through the public accusation of evil people. I know that the other side of this is not being willing to stand by while the world races to hell and drags thousands of others with it. The answer to that might be **“Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?” (Matthew 7:3). “You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye” (Matthew 7:5).** These are the Scriptures that follow **“Do not judge...”**

Though we all believe that Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees and not to the body of Christ, there are many things that must be faced before the “log” can be removed from the eye of the accusing church.

Certain leaders in the Christian church have spoken out against homosexuality and abortion. At this point, some of the highest numbers of abortions performed are done on woman claiming to be Christians.

Before anyone can single out homosexuals and condemn them, we would need to read the rest of the warning in Romans. **“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:18).** The truth here is the “Spirit of Truth” which is the Holy Spirit. How much suppressing of the Holy Spirit has there been in the last two thousand years? All denominations have shared in some measure of suppressing the freedom of the Spirit. If the enemy cannot get you to suppress the move of the Spirit, he will cause you to reject and condemn those who try to live by the Spirit. Either way, we are not judging correctly.

“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools” (Romans 1:21-22).

Look at one of the meanings of “honor” I found in Thayer’s Concordance: *to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged:*

How much of the worth of God has gone out into the world through Christians? We are all happy to show forth some kind of praise or adoration to God in a church assembly, but what is happening in our daily lives and the places we work? Is condemnation and accusation of sin the only thing the world sees of Christians? Perhaps we should look a little closer at what is really happening in our midst and seek the Lord for change before we enter into any more judgment.

"And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful" (Romans 1:28-31).

It is interesting to note that included with being given over to a depraved mind there is greed (which America is facing devastation for), envy, strife, deceit, and other sweet things like gossip and disobedience to parents to mention just a few. These are all a result of not acknowledging God and suppressing the truth. It would be crazy to think that all those living a gay lifestyle were also greedy, full of envy, murder, strife, etc. Does this mean that everyone who has not acknowledged God or suppressed the Truth is a homosexual? All this is a result of "people" suppressing the truth and denying God, not a person. These sins are the spirits that visit a nation that refuses to acknowledge God and then consciously chooses to suppress the Truth.

To have adoration for God only to fail to acknowledge Him when under pressure to confess your faith releases these spirits on people. On the other hand, attending church regularly and living as pious a life as humanly possible, but suppressing the Spirit of Truth, brings the same result. Every congregation that sits in judgment over a leader who challenges them to walk by the Spirit is facing the same result. This will bring envy, strife, deceit, and malice until there is a lack of mercy and an absence of lovingkindness in their midst.

I've said all this to say that before condemning someone for being homosexual, you will have to condemn all who are greedy as well. When you are finished with that, you can start on the untrustworthy, the unloving, the unmerciful, and slanderers. I won't mention the wicked, boastful, and murderers because you will be very busy condemning all those I mentioned earlier. It might be better to take a look at why these spirits are on our nation and ask God to forgive us all for our own role in releasing these spirits.

SIXTEEN PERCENT BORN AGAIN

There has been a statistic floating around lately in the prophetic world that only about 16% of those who claim to be Christians are really born again or sometimes known as those who completely trust in Jesus. This has nothing to do with how much someone goes to church or even prays. It is about putting your complete trust in Jesus after confessing your sins and weakness before Him, then asking Him to be Lord of your life.

It is also about beginning your life over from a kingdom perspective and not a worldly view. It is desiring a personal relationship with God through Jesus His Son.

If only 16% is really saved, then 84% lack the eyes to see the Spirit of Truth and cannot receive this Truth. With that in mind, there is no doubt the system we have all been relying on is not working and perhaps it's time to end this and start over in God's plan.

Larry Randolph spoke a word for 2010 that included pulling the plug on the life-support that we have used to keep the old system alive. Then restarting this whole thing again using God's plan and not man's. I know that may sound like heresy to many people, but the present traditions of the church are not fulfilling the call of God on those who believe. The verse in John 14 starts with **"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments"** (see **John 14:15**). All that we will face in the next year and years to come will be based on the simple command of Jesus, **"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another"** (**John 13:34-35**).

It would be difficult right now to convince the world that the Christian church is full of people who love each other. This is not to say there are none like this but when the vast majority of those who claim faithfulness to Jesus are not really born again, there must be some kind of change.

The Lord woke me in the night with a word that I couldn't understand until I found it in the dictionary. "Nomenclature" kept ringing in my head until I found it. I had been praying for the church and wondered why God was giving me this word as an answer. It turns out that this word means the naming of parts or chemicals used in an experiment. When something is being invented or starting from scratch, the components and sequence of events must be named. This naming of unknown parts and sequence is called nomenclature.

The Lord was showing me that what He is building as His church will be something so new that its parts will need to be named because no name exists yet. The sequence of events will have to be identified as well for none of the sequences we know now will work.

He also reminded me of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem when the people shouted "Hosanna" and waved palm branches. They also spread their cloaks on the street for the donkey that carried His presence. Shouting "Save us we pray" (Hosanna) and "blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord," was a tradition that was done at the end of a feast in Jerusalem (Psalm 118:25-26). This was a long-established thing to do, but this day it was being done in a spontaneous way. Spreading their cloaks on the road was an extra thing that had not been done before. I don't know if God is going to build a church on spontaneous tradition or not, but I do know the Holy Spirit (Spirit of Truth)

requires listening to and following. That will sometimes lead you into the unknown and that is the place where everything you do comes from the heart and not the head.

Whenever I sing spontaneously before the Lord, the Holy Spirit gives me half a sentence. I must then sing this first half before He will give me the second half. This is because the Lord does not want my opinion involved with what I'm singing. I don't know what is coming out until it does. I believe this is what the next year will hold for believers and the church. We will only get half of what God is doing, and then we must walk it out before we get the second half. This will ensure that no man takes it over or that the collective opinions of men will not overrule what God is doing.

May God have mercy on us all as He leads us into a born again, again experience.