



Avoiding Rash Judgments

Turn your attention upon yourself and beware of judging what others do. In judging others we labor vainly, often make mistakes, and easily sin. But, in analyzing and judging oneself, a person does what is always profitable and to his advantage.

Our judgments are often based upon our personal likes or dislikes, and through our personal prejudices we tend to lose proper perspective and sound thinking. Often something lurks within us or happens outside of us that draws us along with it.

Many of us have our own private motives for what we do; and, not even fully aware of them, we simply seek to please ourselves. We tend to seem quite content when things go our way, but if life takes a turn against our desires, we become very disturbed and saddened. Differences of feeling or opinion often divide friends and neighbors, even those who are faithful and devout.

Old habits are hard to break, and no one is easily led beyond his own point of view. If you lean more on your own reason or efforts than on the virtue of submission in your life-walk with Jesus Christ, then you will have a difficult time becoming an enlightened person—it will at least be very slow.

God wants us to conform our lives perfectly to His will and, through an intense love for Him, rise above our passions and human wisdom.

(Adapted from *The Imitation of Christ*, Book 1:14)

For further reflection:

Wow! Pretty challenging, huh? Many of us find ourselves being critical of others too often, don't we? We point out their flaws, or look for their hidden motives. Knowing this problem we have, we look for answers to questions about how we are to differentiate between rash judgments and righteous judgments.

My friend, Thomas (from whom these devos come), encourages us to look within and try to straighten out our own motives first by seeking God and His wisdom. Then, the other things will work themselves out.

Our Lord Jesus commands us, *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”* (Matthew 7:1-2)

The Apostle Paul warns: *“You, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgement do the same things.”* (Romans 2:1)

Furthermore, Paul writes, *“Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.... So, then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another....”* (Romans 14:4-13)

Jesus' brother, James, writes: *“There is only one lawgiver and judge, the one who is able to save and destroy—who are you to judge your neighbor?”* (James 4:12)

There is an endless list of verses like these in God's Word. You might be able to think of even better ones than those I have cited here. Let us humbly examine ourselves as we live God's Word, walk with Him, and love one another. Don't make rash judgments against people.

Scott