

## The Inescapable Law

January 4th, 2007

*“Oh, praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles! Laud him, all ye peoples! For His merciful kindness is great toward us, And the truth of the Lord endures forever.”*

How often the Biblical verse of Matthew 7:1 “*Judge not that ye be not judged*” comes from our lips. The matter of fact is that reading it in the context demands an all-together different rendering than we assume it to mean. To not be judgemental may well suggest that we do as we please without any interference and evaluations of authority from others. We discover in the context an other verse “*-cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye*” (V5b). A very dangerous interpretation of Scripture is to draw one verse out of its total context, as may well be the case in the above.

Going through Scripture one finds many verses that address's the matter of passing judgment. I Corinthian 6:2, 3 “*Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matter? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life?*”

Nathan judged David for committing adultery by saying, “*Thou art the man*” (II Samuel 12:7). Nowhere is it recorded that David felt remorse for this sin until Nathan accosted him. When David acknowledged his sin God forgave him, “*And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sins; thou shalt not die*” II Samuel 12:13.

The question is; have we the biblical qualifications to judge, and what is the motivation? Matthew 7:5b would suggest, “*first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and than thou shalt see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye*”. Galatians 6:1-3 would suggest the proper motivation, “*Brethren, if a man be*

*overtaken in a fault (who isn't?), ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if a man think him to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself."*

We will have to conclude that, 1) judgement is a real act of biblical ministry, 2) one must qualify and that, 3) one must have the right motivation. To avoid the above will leave all our actions to be judged by one's self, and is never the business of anyone else. This is the very atmosphere in which **Judges 21:25** was written, *"In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."*

Scripture would suggest that there are two distinct formats to follow; one is **Matthew 18:15-17**, which applies to a brother; and the other, is to leadership, I **Timothy 5:19-21**.

Again, how humbling and beneficial this is for all of us who are so prone to wander. Thank God that the true brother who sees discrepancies in my life and will graciously speak to me when I have not heeded the voice of the Holy Spirit in a given matter. Jv/dV

Send your comments and questions and we will, prayerfully seek to get back to you as soon as possible. [jandrvdv@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:jandrvdv@nbnet.nb.ca)