

# The Importance Of Self-Judgement

Almost every human being from childhood to death hides behind a façade.

Only briefly when forced by some emotional shock, will their true nature be revealed, for a moment, then they will retreat as quickly as possible behind this self-created façade.

The end result is that rarely do people know other humans they relate to even on a daily basis.

Worse still, this camouflage is so successful that mostly they do **not** know fully their own personality and character.

**Self-knowledge is critically important for us in our pursuit of God and His righteousness.**

Because of this it is necessary to remove this façade and permit our real selves to be known by others and especially our own selves.

**Any self-admiration effectively blocks out any possible effort to discover a remedy for our fallen and sinful condition.**

**Matthew 9:11-13** [NIV] *“When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?” On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

**Only** a person who knows they are sick from sin will go to the great spiritual physician, Jesus Christ.

The “*righteous*” mentioned in this scripture are most likely the “*self-righteous*” as it was aimed at the self-righteous Pharisees.

**Hebrews 4:12-13** [NIV] *“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”*

Our true moral and spiritual state can **only** be disclosed by the Word of God, the Christian Bible, and the Holy Spirit who inspired its composition.

**John 16:13** [NIV] *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

**Only** the Holy Spirit can open up God’s Word to us.

**John 17:17** [NIV] *“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”*

**Only** the Word of God, the Christian Bible, reveals the truth to us.

How is this?

**John 14:6** [NIV] *“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.”*

It is the Holy Spirit who reveals Jesus Christ to us who is the truth personified.

The final judgement can only be God’s judgement.

**Psalms 139:1-6** [NIV] *“O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in, behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.”*

This is why only God can be the perfect and ultimately true judge.

**Matthew 7:1-5** [NIV] *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way as you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”*

We do **not** have the capacity to rightly judge any other human being.

**1 Corinthians 4:3-5** [NIV] *“I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.”*

There is a sense in which we dare not even judge ourselves.

Why?

Because the façade we put up for others to see, can even fool us.

**James 1:23-24** [NIV] *“Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.”*

This can happen to any human being.

There is, nevertheless, a place for self-judgement and a real need for us to exercise it.

**1 Corinthians 11:31-32** [NIV] *“But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.”*

While our self-discovery is **not** likely to be complete.

Our self-judgement is almost certain to be biased and imperfect.

Yet there is a very good reason for us to work alongside the Holy Spirit in His gracious and gentle effort to locate us spiritually, so that He may prompt us to make such amendments as circumstances demand.

**Galatians 5:22-23** [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

It is our intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit that will cause these Godlike qualities to mature in us.

**Galatians 5:24-25** [NIV] *“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

Our job is to keep in step with the Holy Spirit to allow Him to judge us now, so we will not fail to pass with flying colours at our final judgement before our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**2 Corinthians 5:10** [NIV] *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”*

I believe that one question Jesus Christ will ask us at this moment in time will be, *“what did you do with my gift of the Holy Spirit?”*

Jesus will know the answer, but what will He be expecting it to be?

We need to be asking ourselves that very question now, well before that day of final judgement.

There are certain areas of our life we need to be examining, and seeking to change now if we can confidently face our Saviour on that judgement day.

### **1. What do we want most?**

What would you rather have than anything else in the world?

Reject any conventional answer.

Insist on the true one that will only come to us when in a quiet place, where we can collect our thoughts, and listen closely to the faint cry of desire in our hearts.

When you have heard this you will begin to know the kind of person you really are.

**Psalms 4:4** [NIV] *“Search your hearts and be silent.”*

**Psalms 46:10** [NIV] *“Be still, and know that I am God ...”*

This is something that is very difficult for most humans in this present society.

So over the years my greatest desire has become just that, to be in the presence of my Creator.

This is far from my greatest desires before I became a *“born again”* Christian.

It has taken many years for this change of focus to take place in my life, I hope it comes quickly to you.

### **2. What do we think about most?**

The necessities of physical life compel us to think about many things.

The true test is what do we think about voluntarily, when freed from our physical tasks to sustain our physical life.

**Matthew 6:21** [NIV] *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

**Whatever we treasure in our life will be what our thoughts will cluster about.**

Where our thoughts focus is the treasure in our life!

### **3. How do we use our money?**

Again we must ignore the expenses that are **not** altogether free.

We must pay taxes and provide the necessities of physical life for ourselves and our family, if any.

This is routine and tells us little about ourselves.

**But whatever we do with the money left to use as we please. That will tell us a great deal about our real selves.**

We need to listen to this desire.

#### **4. What do we do with our leisure time?**

A large share of our time is already spoken for but we all do have some free time.

What we do with this time, however limited, tells us a great deal about who we are.

Most people waste this spare time staring at the television, listening to the radio, reading cheap fictitious literature or engaging in idle chatter.

**What we do with our time reveals what kind of person we really are.**

#### **5. What company do we enjoy?**

There is a law of moral attraction that draws every person to the society most like themselves.

**Acts 4:23** [NIV] *“On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.”*

On being released from custody of the rulers they returned to those who were likeminded to themselves.

**Where we go when we are free to go where we will is a near-infallible indication of our character.**

**Proverbs 29:3** [NIV] *“A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.”*

We lack wisdom to keep company with people who live a life of sin.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-15** [NIV] *“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?”*

Avoid close fellowship with those who are as yet blinded to the reason for our existence as human beings.

#### **6. Whom and what do we admire?**

Many evangelical Christians, while kept in line by expressed group pressure, still have secret admiration of those who are successful in this world.

**Psalms 37:1-4** [NIV] *“Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.”*

We are warned **not** to envy the lifestyle of sinful human beings.

**Psalms 73:2-5, 16-18** [NIV] *“But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no*

*struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills.” ... “When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny. Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.”*

It is so easy to admire those who prosper through wicked dealings, drugs, prostitution, gambling, etc.

This seems so unjust of God, until we see their end.

When our Christian faith brings persecution and maybe poverty, it is all too easy to envy those who are **not** under such pressure.

## **7. Who and what do we laugh at?**

Humour is a legitimate component of the complex nature God has created in us.

We only have to look at some of God’s physical creation to see that God has a sense of humour.

**Matthew 7:3-5** [NIV] *“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”*

I’m sure this illustration caused the crowd to laugh.

**Matthew 19:24** [NIV] *“Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”*

Jesus uses what is a ridiculous situation to focus attention on what He was seeking to impress on their minds.

**Ecclesiastes 3:4** [NIV] *“a time to weep and a **time to laugh**, a time to mourn and a time to dance,”*

Laughter is a normal part of human life.

The test is **not** whether we laugh or not, but what we laugh at.

**Some things lie outside the field of pure humour.**

**No** reverent Christian, for instance, finds death and mourning funny, nor birth, marriage relationships and love.

**No** spirit-filled human will laugh at the holy scripture, the church which Christ has purchased with His own blood, prayer, righteousness or human grief and pain.

**Nor could any Christian even for a brief moment laugh at a story involving the divine Creator God.**

These are but a few tests we can use to judge our real motives and character.

A wise Christian will be able to find and use others.

We need to use every possible opportunity to prepare ourselves for the judgement day we all as human beings will have to face.