

Being Faithful in an *Un*Faithful World!

Are you **Discerning** or Judgmental?

August 23rd, 2009

Discernment – *to distinguish, to investigate*

1 Corinthians 12:10 He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit.

Judgment – *to give a verdict*

(with no intention of personal involvement)

Romans 2:1-3 You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things. And we know that God, in his justice, will punish anyone who does such things. Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you do the same things?

What is the difference?

Discernment: *asks questions until all important factors are understood*

Proverbs 25:2b ...to search out a matter is the glory of kings.

Judgment: *accepts hearsay at face value and forms opinions of motives on a few known factors.*

Proverbs 14:15 Only simpletons believe everything they're told! The prudent carefully consider their steps.

Discernment: *studies all important factors in order to discover root causes for the present problem.*

Isaiah 11:3 He will delight in obeying the LORD. He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay.

Judgment: *openly shares conclusions with those not related to the solution of the problem.*

Proverbs 18:13 Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.

Discernment: *looks for a comparable problem in personal experience.*

2 Corinthians 1:4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

Judgment: *avoids personal self-evaluation by projecting hostility toward the offender and his offense.*

Mark 11:25 But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too."

Discernment: *accepts the offender as he is and waits for the right opportunity to approach the problem.*

Matthew 18:15 "If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.

Judgment: *fails to differentiate between the sin and the sinner and, therefore, reflects a rejection of both.*

Discernment: *gains the confidence of the one in need and then shares the steps taken to overcome a similar problem.*

Judgment: *tells a person where he has been wrong without providing direction for a solution.*

Discernment: *assumes the responsibility for restoration.*

Galatians 6:1 Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

Judgment: *reminds God of the shortcomings of the offender.*

1 Peter 4:8 Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.