

Book of Correction

Chapter 5 begins with a very specific instance and ends with the phrase “put away from yourselves the evil person,” a phrase used several times in the book of Deuteronomy as the ‘WHY’ of passing judgments for certain laws -

-idolatry

-bearing false witness against another (what was intended against the innocent)

-a woman not maintaining her virginity prior to marriage

-adultery

-kidnapping

*Deuteronomy was the second reading of the law to the nation of Israel as they prepared to cross the Jordan river into the land God had promised to them.

so Paul’s tone here becomes legal in nature. In fact it begins back in chapter 4:3

[1Co 4:3 NKJV] 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.

and continues throughout chapter 5

[1Co 5:3 NKJV] 3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.

(I like to bring this up when the topic of not judging comes up)

then to 5:12-13

[1Co 5:3, 12-13 NKJV] 3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. ... 12 For what [have] I [to do] with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? 13 But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "put away from yourselves the evil person."

Now we consider, as Paul says, judgment is within God's house - use good judgment, use discernment as opposed to the broad brush of condemnation. The practical application for this - using your senses is born out in Christ's teachings.

[Mat 7:15-20 NKJV] 15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor [can] a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 "Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

[Mat 16:1-3 NKJV] 1 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. 2 He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, '[It will be] fair weather, for the sky is red'; 3 "and in the morning, '[It will be] foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot [discern] the signs of the times.

Use your senses! Open your eyes. Use good judgment.

So, that is our foundation as we continue to examine Paul's instruction on judgment within the Body.

v.1 Dare - that's a bold move to go before the unrighteous - those outside the family of God and not before the saints (that's us).

go to law - krino - judgment - to be judged, i.e. summoned to trial that one's case may be examined and judgment passed upon it

v.2-3 saints will judge the world and angels! - God has a special role for His people, a big role

To the church of Thyatira - [Rev 2:25-26 NKJV] 25 "But hold fast what you have till I come. 26 "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—

[Psa 149:5-9 NKJV] 5 Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds. 6 [Let] the high praises of God [be] in their mouth, And a

two-edged sword in their hand, 7 To execute vengeance on the nations,
And punishments on the peoples; 8 To bind their kings with chains, And
their nobles with fetters of iron; 9 To execute on them the written
judgment--This honor have all His saints. Praise the LORD!

Sounds intense - I'm not qualified to do that - judge those big things?!
What?! Not me!

By ourselves we are not qualified, our judgment is sometimes really bad.
BUT we are qualified if we have the mind of Christ. (1 Cor 2:16) that comes
through regeneration in the Holy Spirit.

v.4 - if that is us - having the mind of Christ - being Christ's saints - holy
ones, sanctified by God

[1Pe 2:9 NKJV] 9 But you [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a
holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of
Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

then why do we rely on the world's wisdom - which is opposed to holiness
- to make judgments among us?

v.5-8 What was actually going on in the church and sometimes still going
on today.

Certainly there was at least one person who would be able to make those judgments according to God's word BUT sometimes find it more beneficial for their cause to go outside the church.

Believers dragging one another into court before unbelievers - besmirching the precious name of Jesus and showing a picture of discord and contempt for one another. Unbelievers look on and say - you're just as selfish as the rest of us, or worse, they blaspheme the name of our Lord and chalk it up as just another weird club. Instead of unbelievers looking upon our love for one another they saw our contempt and greed. Our need to be right, instead of our need to be righteous.

v.7 indicates that they had already failed in this -

why not accept wrong? why not be cheated? because they didn't have the mind of Christ, even while claiming to identify with Him - a most common affliction.

[Isa 53:7 NKJV] 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

[1Pe 2:21-23 NKJV] 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed [Himself] to Him who judges righteously;

v.8 - the need to assert one's rights - to stand up for ourselves - to get revenge - an eye for an eye

[Mat 5:38-40 NKJV] 38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 "But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40 "If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have [your] cloak also.

There's a right way to handle this:

[Mat 18:15-17 NKJV] 15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' 17 "And if he refuses to hear them, tell [it] to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

This isn't combat - Temper your desire to win, to be right with your righteousness through Christ:

[Col 3:12-14 NKJV] 12 Therefore, as [the] elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also [must

do]. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

v.9-10 - as we are seeking to assert ourselves, to have our rights protected we would do well to remember where we came from - and perhaps exercise some grace towards others.

v.11 - the nuclear bomb of it all - BUT - you were washed, sanctified - set apart, justified (just as if you'd never done any of it) - all of that yuck was cleansed by Jesus' name and by the Holy Spirit that continues to work in us.

When we deserved judgment - we were instead bathed - that's grace - that's what changes peoples lives.

The very fact that judgment, sentencing, punishment is perfectly reasonable based on our poor behavior - BUT you were washed.

This is how we ought to view one another.