

## 12.2.19 - Judging Righteous Judgment

Often naturism is judged by what someone who is nude has done wrong or is believed to have done wrong. For instance, some guy goes to a naturist resort and meets a woman he starts having an affair with. Or, they hear of a nudist swinger's club and assume that all naturists are doing the same things. They can't imagine that you can be in a mixed group of naked people without having sex, so that is what has to be going on. After they come up with some scenario like this they quote: **1Th 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.** or **Rom 14:21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.** or make some other so-called righteous judgmental statement. Is it proper to judge a teaching as wrong because the teaching is misapplied by some? Is it proper to judge an activity wrong because some of the participants are abusing the activity in some way?

Is naturism the only area that this method of judgment is used? Is it something that is pulled out only to condemn naturism? Wine comes to mind, if you drink wine or any alcoholic beverage you will become an alcoholic. If you eat at a restaurant that serves alcohol you will "appear evil". Dr Jack Hyles used to preach that going to a restaurant that serves alcohol would be sinful due to the appearance of evil rule, yet he flew on airplanes several times per week that all served alcohol. Similar approaches are used against dancing, movies, television and the internet. It seems to be a legalist's weapon of choice that can be used in many areas.

Do we judge a belief or activity by the extreme participants who hold the belief or engage in the activity? This one is easy. Do we judge all Baptists by Westboro Baptist Church? I hope not. Do we all sell our cars because someone drove recklessly and got into a car accident and was killed or killed someone? You know the answer to that one. Do we judge all professional athletes because some of them use drugs, or

get drunk or commit crimes? Again, I hope not. You can probably add many more scenarios to the list of examples.

How do we judge if an activity is right or wrong? If most of the people are doing it can we say that it is right? Most people believe the textile position is right for society and God is for covering the body at all times and as much as possible. By now you should know that many ills of society are related to clothing and God is for the display of His image when legal and the body will not be harmed.

If something is right because it is legal? Is abortion...the killing of an innocent defenseless baby human-being right? How can a person proclaim abortion right and proper...however, it is legal?

Could we depend on our conscience to tell us what is right? We seem to have a natural sense of right or wrong, but it seems to be programmable also. Textile people do not become naturists because their consciences bother them. They had to be convinced to keep clothing on when they were young. Their conscience accepted nakedness as normal when they were first able to undress themselves, but with years of programming their conscience tells them that nakedness is wrong. You hear so many people using the phrase "trust your heart", but the Bible says that the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked" ...doesn't sound like trusting your heart or conscience is good advice.

Then what does work to tell right from wrong? The only way we know is, "What does the Bible say?". The Westboro Baptist Church misuses the Bible to justify their activities, just visit their website. Okay, the best way to know what is right or wrong is to study the whole Bible, but textile people use the same Bible to justify their position on nakedness. All sources can be used to reach a false judgment of right or wrong. The final word must be the Holy Ghost. **Jhn 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.** Since Jesus does not walk the earth

with us today, we could change the last phrase to "whatever the scriptures say." It is possible to miss understand scripture: **2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.** If the Bible were "idiot proof" there would be no need to study it and if you need to study to "rightly divide the word" then it can be "wrongly divided".

I feel like we just got lost on a narrow road with no room to turn around. We will need to move on and hope to find a road that leads to a solution. Let's take a deeper look at each of these to see if we can find an answer.

I did not find a single verse that applied to our problem. That leaves us looking at examples. We will start with popularity. During the rein of Ahab, Jezebel made Baal worship very popular by suppressing the worship of God. Elijah over stated how bad things were to God in the verse below, but Baal was the most popular god in the Northern Kingdom. **1Ki 19:10 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.** Did that make Baal worship right in God's eyes? After it had not rained for more than three years because God gave Elijah the power to stop the rain. Elijah had a contest to prove who would answer prayers, God or Baal. **1Ki 18:24 And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.** Baal worshipers were given all the advantages: Baal prophets had 450 to 1 odds over God's prophets, they had time on their side; all day to pray to Baal vs one quick prayer at the time of the evening offering, dry wood vs soaking wet wood, etc. As you know God won the contest. The fire from heaven proved God's command did not change because of popularity or because His worship was illegal. He still did not want Israel worshipping Baal and He gave proof that Baal was powerless. The lack of rain could be viewed as a punishment for not worshipping God.

Next is it right if it is legal? Here is a law from Nebuchadnezzar. **Dan 3:4-6** Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. Here is the answer given by the three Hebrew children who disobeyed the law. **Dan 3:17, 18** If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. As you know, God saved the three from the fire which shows that God was for them and their position. If God supports something with a miracle, then it is right.

And now conscience as a guide to right or wrong. We will go to Judges for this one. **Judges 17:6** In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes. In other words, they followed their conscience. The story that follows this verse lead to a civil war and much loss of life with this ending: **Judges 21:** And said, O LORD God of Israel, why is this come to pass in Israel, that there should be to day one tribe lacking in Israel? It does not look like following their conscience lead them on the right path.

Problems with "What the Bible says". We all come to the study of the Bible with a conscience that is programmed by the people we associate with and what we read. That is what seems right in our eyes, so it will be easy to bend the Scriptures to that unconsciously. Prayer for understanding is a help, but the still small voice can be ignored because you already "know" what is right. Read ALL the verses that relate to the topic you are studying and the verses before and after that verse. Some verses quote a false statement made by someone. Some verses apply only to the people and time or to a time not yet come. Some verses are

part of a logical development to make a point. Without the surrounding verses you will not know these things and could misunderstand the verse.

Commentaries and sermons on the topic can also be a help, but remember they are subject to the same failings that keep us from seeing the truth. They have a conscience that is programmed and beliefs that they worship instead of God. I find that the older men are more reliable than the modern ones. The farther back into the Philadelphia church age the better. They did not seem as inclined to worship their beliefs instead of God.

We must comment on the verses in the first paragraph. **1Th 5:22** is part of a list of things to do or not do. Most of the time this verse is applied as if it said, "Never do anything that could appear evil." That is like never do anything that could offend someone. It cannot be done. "Evil" means anything a legalist wants you to stop doing, like going to naturist activities, or telling someone what the Bible says about naturism, or going to a restaurant that serves alcohol, or wearing wire rimmed glasses or having hair longer than their standard and etc. One of our duties is to make God look good or honor God. So, the standard for "evil" is what God says it is, not some legalist. Jesus was hard on the Pharisee's rules about the Sabbath. He did not reprimand his disciples for rubbing a few heads of wheat or rye or barley in their hands, blowing the chaff away and eating the grain. He healed on the Sabbath which broke another rule of the Pharisees. Remember, Jesus was sinless so God did not see breaking these rules as sin. We can go to naturist activities and not "appear evil" in God's eyes and that is what matters. Telling your textile friends that you attended the activity may be right or wrong based on the leading of the Holy Spirit and your motive. We have found that pushing people or arguing with people have never achieved a good result.

The second verse, **Rom 14:21**, is more difficult to know what to do since it is difficult to know what will cause someone to stumble, be made weak. or be offended. It is almost a case by case decision if we do

not look at the verses at the beginning of the chapter. The examples at the beginning of the chapter are about diet restrictions and observance of days. Since there are no commands in the New Testament about diet or feast days, this may be a way to handle something not covered by scripture. It could also be telling Jews and Gentiles to stop fighting over the laws about diet and feast days in the Old Testament. Either way, it has little to do with naturism because that is covered rather well by examples in the scriptures both in the Old and New Testaments.

Naturism is not the same as refusing to worship the golden image. There is no command to not wear clothing therefore we follow the civil laws and try to get them changed. We also respect the beliefs of textile people and do not offend them with our naked bodies. They should allow us to enjoy our naturist activities without judging our character solely on their opinion of naturism.

In conclusion, the basis for good doctrine must be the Holy Scriptures, but they must be studied as a whole to find the harmony of scripture as the Word of God will never argue with or contradict itself. It must also be studied to find the Truth rather than simply to prove yourself right. The leading of the Holy Spirit cannot be ignored, but neither can it be exclusive to our decision making as many a Christian has blamed God for their decision only to change their mind later as they learned more from the Word of God. I can assure you that God didn't change His mind about the doctrine of His own Word, you simply got it wrong.

As a final point, we'd like to gently encourage everyone to consider sticking with the King James Version of the Holy Scriptures as your source for sound doctrine. As we mentioned earlier that God will never argue with or contradict Himself in His Word, yet most of the modern versions do just that. Please do not take our word on the subject, but do not simply take your pastor or professor's word on the subject either. Do your own research just as you have regarding the subject of naturism. What you find might just surprise yourself. Some good resources for your study are:

<http://preciousseed.com/resources.html> and then click on the “Why Use the King James” link.

Also, Gail Riplinger’s books “Which Bible is the Word of God” and “New Age Bible Versions” are also good resources.