

#2 THE JUDGMENT OF THE BELIEVER'S SELF (I CORINTHIANS 11:31-32)

EXAMINE YOURSELF (I CORINTHIANS 11:27-30)

The believer's self-judgment means more than judging things in the believer's life. When the believer judges his life, the good and the bad in his life come to light; he confesses the bad (I JOHN 1:9) and forsakes it (ISAIAH 55:7). However, it is not enough just to judge sin in the believer; he must judge self.

How is the best way to judge self? With our standards, the world's standards, or the standard of Jesus Christ?

- 1. To judge self is to practice self-denial; for when the believer sees self as God sees him, he will renounce self. It is placing the self-life with the Christ-life (COLOSSIANS 3:4) "WHEN CHRIST WHO IS OUR LIFE APPEARS, THEN YOU ALSO WILL APPEAR WITH HIM IN GLORY." Christ is the believer's life.**
- 2. To judge self is to deny self. This is more than self-denial. Self-denial is denying one's self or fleshly gratifications. If we practice self-denial only, it is treating the symptom and not the illness. But when we deny self, we are attacking the root problem, for in self (in the flesh) nothing good dwells (ROMANS 7:18) "FOR I KNOW THAT IN ME (THAT IS, IN MY FLESH) NOTHING GOOD DWELLS; FOR TO WILL IS PRESENT WITH ME, BUT HOW TO PERFORM WHAT IS GOOD I DO NOT FIND."
To deny self is to take up our cross and follow Christ (MARK 8:34-38)
To lose the self-life and find the Christ-life (GALATIANS 2:20) "I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST; IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME; AND THE LIFE WHICH I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME".**
- 3. To judge self is to become less and less self-conscious, and more and more Christ-conscious (MATTHEW 28:20) "TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU; AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE"**
- 4. To judge self is to become Christ-controlled (ACTS 9:6) "SO HE, TREMBLING AND ASTONISHED, SAID, LORD WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? THEN THE LORD SAID TO HIM, ARISE AND GO INTO THE CITY, AND YOU WILL BE TOLD WHAT YOU MUST DO."**
- 5. To judge self is to value others better than self. (PHILIPPIANS 2:3) "LET NOTHING BE DONE THROUGH SELFISH AMBITION OR CONCEIT, BUT IN LOWLINESS OF MIND LET EACH ESTEEM OTHERS BETTER THAN HIMSELF."**