



PAUL'S LETTER TO THE
Romans

Romans 14:7-13

Do Not Judge Fellow Believers

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All Believers Belong to the Lord

Romans 14:7-8 For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; 8 for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, **we are the Lord's**.

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Christ Alone Is Our Judge

Romans 14:9-11 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. **10 But you, why do you judge your brother?** Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. **11** For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD."

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Don't Judge the Brethren

Romans 14:12-13 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. **13** Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

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Applications

1. We must realize that all believers will give an account to Christ, not to fellow man.
2. We must understand how dangerous it is to judge other believers.

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Two Different Judgements

White throne judgment: unbelievers
Bema seat judgment: believers

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in **the first resurrection**; over these **the second death** has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

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We Must Give an Account to Christ

1 Cor. 3:12-15 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each man's work will become evident; **for the day will show it** because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15 **If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.**

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We Must Give an Account to Christ

2 Cor. 5:7-10 ... for **we** walk by faith, not by sight— 8 **we** are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. 9 Therefore **we** also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. 10 **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

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It's Dangerous to Judge Believers

We don't know the heart:

1 Cor. 4:5 **Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time**, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

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It's Dangerous to Judge Believers

We aren't the Lawgiver:

James 4:11-12 Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. 12 **There is only one Lawgiver and Judge,** the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

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