

The Verdict That Matters



1 Corinthians
4:1-5



The Spiritual Component

- Recent survey
 - 4 out of 5 Americans believe they will answer to God in some sort of judgment when they die!
- YET, this doesn't seem to affect peoples lives
 - Sin allowed to overcome will-power
 - Sin worth the risk (lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, & the pride of life), 1 John 2:16
 - Sin rationalized... hell probably don't exist anyway

What a Tragedy!

The Judgment

- Can we afford to be wrong!
 - Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."
- "Judgment", is a powerful word
- "Judgment", is a bothersome word
 - Life is about continual judgments
 - We are continually judging & being judged
 - Work, Family, Neighbors, Health, Financial, etc.
- God's judgment waits for all of us

1 Corinthians 4:1-5, 3 Judgments of Man

1. Court of Public Opinion

- 1 Corinthians 4:1-3a, "Let a man so account of us (consider us-NKJV), as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment"
- Casey Anthony, innocent by a jury of her peers
- Subjective opinion even w/ the facts (right/wrong)
- Nothing wrong with judging or being judged
 - Paul said, "BRING IT ON" & "JUDGE ME"



Court of Public Opinion

- Jesus was misjudged by many who heard him
 - Mark 3:21, "when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself."
- Christians, are often misjudged
 - "BRING IT ON", should be expected & welcomed
 - 1 Corinthians 4:2, "required...to be found faithful"
 - Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."




Court of Public Opinion

- Watch Out For The Trap!!!
 - Don't allow other's opinions determine for you what is right & what is wrong !
 - Galatians 1:10, "do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."
 - Luke 2:26, Jesus said, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you!"
- Bottom line on the "Court of Public Opinion"
 - 1 Corinthians 4:3a, "with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or man's judgment"


2. Court of Personal Opinion

- 1 Corinthians 4:3b-4a, *“yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified”*
- Healthy self-criticism, essential but difficult
 - 2 Corinthians 7:10, *“godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation”*
- Personal examination only goes so far
 - Proverbs 28:26, *“trust in his own heart is a fool”*
 - 1 Timothy, 4:2, *“conscience seared with a hot iron”*
 - Acts 23:1, Paul, persecuted the church in all good conscience



Court of Personal Opinion

- Personal Opinion Does Have Value
 - Luke 18:9-14, Parable of Pharisee & Tax Collector
 - Pharisee thought he looked good, compared to others
 - Tax Collector looked to God and could only say, *“God be merciful to me a sinner”*
- Parable teaches value of proper evaluation
 - 2 Corinthians 13:5, *“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”*



3. Court of Divine Opinion

- 1 Corinthians 4:4c-5, *“but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.”*
- Ultimate judgment belongs to the Lord
 - Philippians 2:10, *“every knee will bow... every tongue will confess Jesus is Lord.”*
- Paul not saying it is wrong to make judgments
 - Vs. 1, *“Consider us, as...ministers of Christ”*
 - 1 Corinthians 5, Instructions on judging
 - Matthew 7, Instructions on judging

Court of Divine Opinion

- God’s Verdict is the Only One That Matters
 - God’s judgment will be righteous, 1 Peter 2:23
 - God’s judgment not based on subjective emotions, accepted moralities, & traditions, etc.
 - God’s Judgment based on His Word
 - Revelation 20:12, *“I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”*

Court of Divine Opinion

- God will judge us based on our words, our actions, and our secret thoughts
- God will judge us on how all these things conform or do not conform to His word
 - John 12:48, *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day”*

Who Killed Caylee Anthony?

GOD Knows!