

HOW WILL YOU JUDGE?

“Do you not know that the saints (the believers) will [one day] judge and govern the world? And if the world [itself] is to be judged and ruled by you, are you unworthy and incompetent to try [such petty matters] of the smallest courts of justice? Do you not know also that we [Christians] are to judge the [very] angels and pronounce opinion between right and wrong [for them]? How much more then [as to] matters pertaining to this world and of this life only!”

– 1 Corinthians 6:2-3

“Then I saw thrones, and sitting on them were those to whom authority to act as judges and to pass sentence was entrusted. Also I saw the souls of those who had been slain with axes [beheaded] for their witnessing to Jesus and [for preaching and testifying] for the Word of God, and who had refused to pay homage to the beast or his statue and had not accepted his mark or permitted it to be stamped on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived again and ruled with Christ (the Messiah) a thousand years.”

– Revelation 20:4

The thrones John saw in his vision represent the positions of authority given to believers—Born-Again Christians—who will judge alongside Christ. The Bride of Christ, His Church, will share in this responsibility because we are united with Him. Ephesians 5:30-32 reminds us that we are members of Christ’s body, and just as a body acts together as one, we will participate with Jesus in the judgment He has been entrusted with.

“Even the Father judges no one, for He has given all judgment (the last judgment and the whole business of judging) entirely into the hands of the Son.”

– John 5:22

JUDGING WITH GRACE AND MERCY

What makes this judgment extraordinary is that it will reflect Christ’s character—overflowing with grace and mercy.

“Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy [that is, readiness to help those in trouble] and not sacrifice and sacrificial victims. For I came not to call and invite [to repentance] the righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with God), but sinners (the erring ones and all those not free from sin).”

– Matthew 9:13

The Word of God, eternal and unchanging, will be the foundation of this judgment.

“Heaven and Earth are going to pass away, but the Word of God will never stop being in full force.”

– Mark 13:31

This judgment will be rooted in forgiveness, as Jesus demonstrated throughout His ministry:

“But if you do not forgive others their trespasses [their reckless and willful sins, leaving them, letting them go, and giving up resentment], neither will your Father forgive you your trespasses.”

– Matthew 6:15

“Invoke blessings upon and pray for the happiness of those who curse you, implore God’s blessing (favor) upon those who abuse you [who revile, reproach, disparage, and high-handedly misuse you].”

– Luke 6:28

As we are led by the Spirit, the judgment we partake in will reflect Christ’s heart, offering forgiveness freely, just as we have been forgiven.

“But that you may know that the Son of Man has the [power of] authority and right on earth to forgive sins, He said to the paralyzed man, ‘I say to you, arise, pick up your litter (stretcher), and go to your own house!’”

– Luke 5:24

JUDGMENT REFLECTING LOVE

Those we judge will experience the love of Christ through us, even when they are undeserving. This love will cause them to acknowledge the greatness of Jesus’ victory and mercy.

“Take note! I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and learn and acknowledge that I have loved you.”

– Revelation 3:9

This is reflected in Jesus’ Parable of the Wedding Feast, where the good and the bad alike are invited into His celebration:

“And those servants went out on the crossroads and got together as many as they found, both bad and good, so [the room in which] the wedding feast [was held] was filled with guests.”

– Matthew 22:10

The Bride, the Church, is not a guest at her own wedding. However, there will be guests—both good and bad—who will be shown mercy and forgiveness. They, too, will learn of God’s great love.

“For God has consigned (penned up) all men to disobedience, only that He may have mercy on them all [alike].”

– Romans 11:32

CONCLUSION

On Judgment Day, the Bride of Christ will not judge from a place of condemnation but of mercy, forgiveness, and love. Jesus’ victory on the Cross was so complete that even in judgment, His grace will shine. As Romans 5:18 declares, Christ’s act of righteousness leads to acquittal and right standing with God for all.

“Who wishes all men to be saved and [increasingly] to perceive and recognize and discern and know precisely and correctly the [divine] Truth.”

– 1 Timothy 2:4

This future role is not about exacting wrath but about revealing the immeasurable love and mercy of God. His judgment, through us, will serve as a testimony to His eternal kindness and grace, ensuring that all who witness it see His glory and victory.

