

FRUIT INSPECTORS

Opening Passages:

- **Luke 6:37** "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven."
- **Romans 14:10, 13, 22** "Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; . . . therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother . . . the faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves."
- **1 Corinthians 4:3–4** "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me."
- **James 4:11–12** "Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, He who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?"

Yet the Bible also teaches . . .

- **Matthew 19:28** "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'"
- **1 Corinthians 2:14–16** "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 'For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him?' But we have the mind of Christ."
- **1 Corinthians 6:1–3** "When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!"

Well, which is it? As a follower of Christ and bible student, you're already aware that there's no contradiction. Context will clear this all fairly quickly. For example . . .

Don't judge when:

- You're being a hypocrite - Luke 6:37-41
- It's approved by God - Romans 14
- It's out of personal vendetta - 1 Corinthians 4:3-4
- It's really just speaking evil against someone - James 4:11-12

However, everyone makes judgments and the Lord knows it. We do it when:

- Someone takes the role as teacher - Matthew 7:15-20
- Others are caught up in sin - Luke 6:42; Galatians 6:1-2; Jude 1:22-23
- Approaching God's word - Matthew 23:23-24

It demands humility, honesty and love:

- It's not been thought out - John 7:21-24
- It's your personal judgement/standard - Mark 7:1-13
- Realizing you may not be right - Acts 15:36-41
- What do we want? Luke 6:37-38 "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

And let's not forget the ultimate Judge:

- **John 5:25-29** "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And He has given Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."