



# INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN



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## JUDGMENT vs DISCERNMENT

In our efforts to expose the lies, misinformation, deceitful strategy, and false doctrine of those who are enemies of Christianity, America, traditional Biblical values, and culture, we often have the admonition thrown at us : "*Don't judge lest ye be judged,*" and/or "If you can't think of anything good to say, don't say anything," and/or "Let him who is without guilt, throw the first stone." Of course, the list goes on, without need or space herein to include it all. It seems that almost any effort of the shepherd to expose the wolves among the sheep, or the watchman to sound the alarm, or the researcher to express the findings of his research, will be treated with a barrage of often good sounding reasons why the messengers should remain silent. Lost in this denial of truth is the Scriptural directive "*to be discerning,*" with tragic, if not fatal consequences. Even the obvious strategy of the enemy to remain undetected by burying the truth along with those who expose it becomes obscured by mindless parrots mimicking the very lyrics the enemy has created to destroy the opposition, and reach its hidden goals. Perhaps it will help in this environment to examine the distinct difference between "*judgment*" and "*discernment.*"

Let's stipulate, from the longtime accepted authority for the meaning of English language words, Webster's Dictionary, that "*judgment*" means one thing and "*discernment*" means another.

**JUDGMENT:** "a formal utterance of an authoritative opinion; an opinion so pronounced; a proposition stating something believed or asserted; an opinion or estimate.

**DISCERNMENT:** "to separate, distinguish between; stresses accuracy especially in reading character or motives; stresses the power to distinguish and select what is true or appropriate or genuinely excellent.

We can readily see that *judgment* deals with opinions and beliefs while *discernment* relates to accuracy in distinguishing character or motives to select what is true, appropriate, or excellent. Decisions derive from *discernment* as related to establishment of fact, such as "ye shall know them by their fruits;" or by what is true, appropriate, or excellent. i.e. evidence. *Judgment* relates to a conclusion based on opinion to what is believed or asserted. Clearly, the Christian is to be discerning, to measure by Scriptural teaching that which is true, appropriate, or genuinely excellent. Without using God's word as the test, the Christian is left with that which is forbidden, i.e. *judgment*, an opinion, something believed or asserted, but without Scriptural foundation of established evidence.

**NOW LET US BE DISCERNING, GIRD OURSELVES WITH THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, KNOW THE ENEMY, AVOID BEING DESTROYED THROUGH LACK OF KNOWLEDGE, AND STAND IN THE GAP FOR OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR, THE ONE AND ONLY CHRIST.**