

The Classification of Rash Judgement: Jumping to hasty and unfounded negative conclusions about another's character without having sufficient biblical cause; jumping to hasty and unfounded negative conclusions about God and the circumstances He has sovereignly decreed would come into one's life. (Judgments: Rash or Righteous by Lou Priolo, p. 5)

I. The Cancer of Rash Judgments

- A. At the least in relation to people, rash judgments show that one is not believing the best about others, resulting in not giving people the benefit of the doubt--which is a violation of one of the love principles. (1 Corinthians 13:7)
- B. At worst in relation to people, rash judgments lead to not speaking the truth about others, resulting in assassination of people's character and the detriment that lying on people can cause. Not speaking the truth about others is a violation of the ninth commandment. (Exodus 20:16)
- C. In relation to God, rash judgment is a misrepresentation of His Character, resulting in not speaking the truth about God. As none of us like to be misrepresented to others, God especially does not like being misrepresented to others! (Job 42:7-9)

II. The Characteristics of Rash Judgments

- A. Rash judgments tend to happen when people assess God, people, or circumstances based on superficial appearances instead of proven facts. (John 7:24, Mark 4:35-41)
- B. Rash judgments tend to happen when people assess situations according to their personal preferences--calling what others are doing a sin because it does not line up with their own personal preferences. In these situations, one lacks the knowledge of God's insight on these matters and does not recognize the freedom God has given in an area for people to be or do according to different preferences in that same area. (Romans 14:1-12)
- C. In summary, rash judgments tend to happen when we assess God, people, or circumstances by human observations without a biblical interpretation. We are trusting in our own understanding about God, people and circumstances. (Exodus 17:1-7)

III. The Cases of Rash Judgments

- A. Sometimes rash judgments are made because one is suspicious of others as a result of one's own insecurity or jealousy. (1 Samuel 18:6-9 -- King Saul and David)
- B. Sometime rash judgements are made because one misinterprets other people's actions or reactions and does not get clarification from the people one is rashly judging. (1 Samuel 1:12-14 -- Hannah and Eli)
- C. Sometimes rash judgments are made because one is questioning the care of God and others in relation to one's own particular cares or concerns. God and others do not seem to provide the assistance the person demands at the moment which results in making rash judgments about God and others in the moment. (Luke 10:38-42 -- Martha, Mary and Jesus)

IV. The Cure of Rash Judgments

- A. Evaluate yourself to make sure that the rash judgments you have made are not merely the reality of your own negative issues ignored in your own life. (Romans 2:1, Matthew 7:1-5)
- B. Withhold judgement, when you do not have sufficient evidence about someone's character and where you are uncalled and not responsible (not your God-given role or responsibility) to make assessments about someone's character. (1 Corinthians 4:3-5)
- C. Demonstrate love by giving the benefit of the doubt. When clear evidence is gained or received on the matter, and you are called and responsible to address the matter, speak the truth in love for the edification of others, the harmony of the situation, and the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 13:7, Ephesians 4:15,29, Romans 12:18, 1 Peter 3:10-12, 1 Corinthians 10:31)

Questions for Evaluations

What were the circumstances surrounding my judgment?

What was the exact judgment I made?

Was it rash or righteous according to Scripture?

Did I judge something to be a sin that is not explicitly or implicitly identified as such in the Bible?

Was my judgment based on insufficient evidence rather than on the facts?

Was my judgment based on my own unsubstantiated suspicions?

Was my judgment made without divinely appointed authority? In other words, was I called and qualified to make that judgment? (Did judging fall into my role and responsibility given by God?)

Did I make this judgment without first dealing with the known sinful motives in my own heart?

Was my judgment based on outward appearance such as countenances, body language, and dress?

Was my judgment based on unsubstantiated testimony or hearsay?

Was my judgment based on self as the standard?

(Questions taken from the booklet Judgments: Rash or Righteous by Lou Priolo)