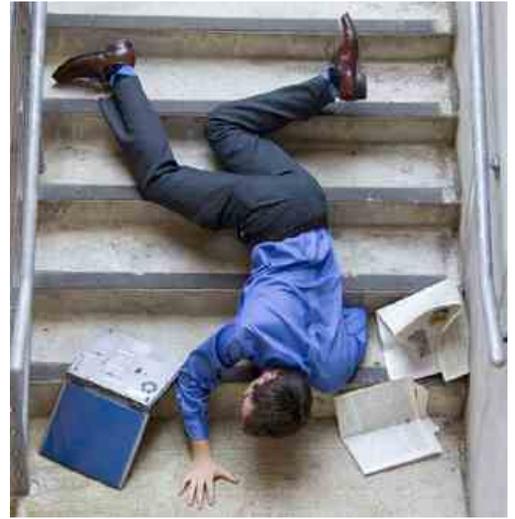


"Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." Romans 14:13 KJV

Believers are quick to accuse others, but are they so quick to judge themselves? There are enough things, already, to cause our spiritual stumbling without us adding to each other's burden. We get enough whispers of doubt and discouragement from Satan and evil, without having to deal with how our siblings in Christ treat us or react. Our actions towards other believers are the highest priority we have. Jesus said, *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples; if ye have love one for another."* Paul took it a step further, *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."* If we strive with one another, we are yielding to the whispers of evil Satan has



planted in our thoughts. He goes to church every Sunday looking for ways to cause discord. If we fight amongst ourselves, his job is done. We can't tell the world about God's Love while squabbling with each other! *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."* Jesus laid down His Life for you. Will you put yours aside for one of His brethren? *"A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth. He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers; Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord ó these six things doth the LORD HATE: Yea, seven (more) are an ABOMINATION unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies (gossiping), and he that soweth discord among brethren."* God hates discord so much, He mentions it twice! It's NOT OK to mention personal problems of others, especially the pastor, under any pretext to anyone, even under the pretense of a "prayer request." God already knows and *"is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* If you must publicly request prayer for someone in sin, request prayer for a spiritual struggle. That's all that needs to be said, if at all. If you are tempted to snub (avoid), complain (state facts), or brag (report) about anything, first, consider the impact it may have on your fellow believer. Something you may have liberty to do may cause another a temptation to sin. *"If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother."* None of us is perfect. Ask the Holy Spirit for discernment in all matters involving other believers. He searches and knows hearts and is better informed than we. Above all, seek to draw closer to the Lord Jesus through meditation *"day and night"* in His Word and in prayer *"without ceasing."* When you start dreaming about praying and Bible reading, you're getting close! We must be obsessed and possessed with the Word of God!

A critic's eye must never cast,
Upon a brother or his past,
For Christ forgave us all our sin,
And others, too, must be forgiven. -CGP

"Wilt thou say to thy brother, 'Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.'" I cannot excuse or ignore my own sin while blaming a fellow believer of sin.

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Romans 14:12 KJV