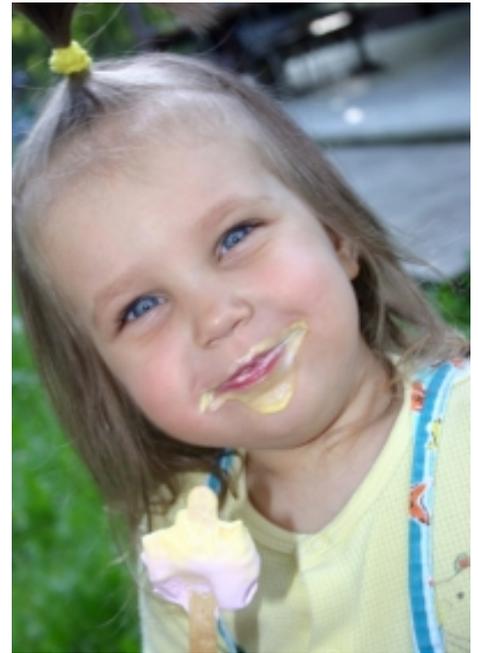


"Prove All Things; hold fast that which is good." 1 Thessalonians 5:21
KJV

Many are quick to say, "Don't judge!" but the same ones so quick to hide behind "Judge not," are the very ones who are persnickety about who their friends are, where they go, what they wear, or where they buy things. They incessantly JUDGE life against their own standard, themselves! There is a distinct difference between judging, i.e. passing sentence, and judging, i.e. evaluating. The scripture is clear that we are to "prove (judge) all things." I don't think "all" means we get to pick and choose. ALL is hyper-inclusive. ALL includes everything AND everyone, including self using the Standard of God's Word. "Don't judge!" is a judgmental statement! Someone is judging and criticizing another. If we are to "prove all things," there has to be an inflexible standard, or chaos ensues. If there was no standard of measure, buildings would fail, elevators would fall, and ships would flounder! An inch in Detroit should be the same as an inch in Chicago. A single standard of measurement is used everywhere or trains would never get anywhere and roads would be useless! We are witnessing, first hand, the results of the removal of God's standard, His Word, from society. Needing a single standard is as plain as the nose on your face, but foolish leaders think it doesn't apply to right and wrong. "Situational ethics" now dictates the decisions of most everyone including many believers. The situation determines the standard of "right." If a pregnancy is an economic or psychological hardship, the baby is murdered which, by the way, is not the same thing as executing a convicted murderer. God's Word determines that difference. "Thou shalt not kill, [but] whoso sheddeth man's blood (murderers), by man shall his blood be shed: for in the Image of God made He man." Jesus is the Truth and the Word. "Thy Word is Truth. The Word was God...and the Word was made flesh. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever!" Truth is absolute! Find good things as described by Truth; hold them fast; nail them down; and keep them safe. I think you would be hard pressed to find anyone who doesn't like ice cream, but just because something pleases, is not the standard of its goodness. Fornication pleases many, but it isn't good. It must please God to be GOOD! We will know what pleases God if we know His Word. "Study to show THYSELF (not everyone else) approved unto God." Clean up your own backyard before criticizing your neighbor!



The Truth of God will show the worth,
Of ev'ry single thing on earth,
And those who keep His Truth in heart,
Will from His goodness ne'er depart. -CGP

My palette decides which foods are GOOD for my taste, but it cannot decide healthy. The present trend of obesity is an obvious earmark of a lack of health standard! TASTING good is not BEING good. A single standard must determine quality else there is no good, better, or best. Sometimes, you get the best of both good and pleasing food, and these become favorites. I alone am the judge of what pleases me. When what I want pleases God, then I have the GOOD in life! Lovers judge one another as best. How do you decide friendship? What to eat? What do you wear? Who do you love? Do you judge? Everyone does! But by what standard? The Bible tells us to "taste and see that the Lord is good." Is He your favorite? How do I "taste" God? By loving and obeying His Word through faith. Faith is proved by obedience. You trust chairs, because you "proved" their support many times before. You trust God for the same reason! Have you ever failed? God may say "No" to us, but has He ever failed you, really? Has air or sun ever been absent for your breath or light?

"Thus saith the LORD the maker thereof, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD is His name; 'Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jeremiah 33:2-3 KJV