

## Biblical Judgements

### Temporal

- Natural law
- Divine intervention
- Holy war
- Church discipline
- Self discipline
- Social discipline

Cross

Bema

Great  
White Throne



### Romans 11

“<sup>22</sup> Behold then the **kindness and severity** of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. <sup>23</sup> And they also, if they do not continue in their **unbelief**, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again.”

**1. Discipline is focused on the heart which is often revealed in behavior.**

**2. God’s discipline is an expression of love that is sometimes mistaken as unfair, rejection or Satanic attack.**

### Hebrews 12:5-6

“My son, do not regard lightly the **discipline** of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprov’d by him; for those whom the Lord loves He **disciplines**, and he **scourges** every son whom He receives.”

**We can dismiss it as happenstance or Satanic.**

**We can mistake it for rejection.**

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**3. Natural phenomena can be God’s hand but it is often just fallen nature.**

#### • Natural disaster – Luke 15:14

“Now when he had spent everything, a **severe famine occurred in that country**, and he began to be impoverished.”

#### • Natural consequences – Galatians 6:7

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.**”

#### • Personal illness – 1 Corinthians 10:30

“For this reason many among you are **weak and sick**, and a number **sleep.**”

### **How can I know if the circumstances are the hand of God in discipline?**

- **Are you under conviction – 1 Peter 3:16**  
“And **keep a good conscience** so that in the things in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.”
- **Have you neglected kingdom values – 1 Peter 4:15**  
“Make sure that **none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;**”
- **Do trusted counselors give you insight – Galatians 2:11**  
“But when Cephas came to Antioch, **I opposed him to his face**, because he stood condemned.”

### **4. Human leaders can be God’s hand and therefore must be responsible.**

- **Human government – Romans 13:4**  
“But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it (**government**) does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, **an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil.**”
- **Church officials – 1 Timothy 3:4-5**  
“He must be one who manages his own household . . . but if a man does not know how to **manage** his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?”
- **Parents in a family – Ephesians 6:4**  
“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the **discipline** and instruction of the Lord.”

### **Three common mistakes made by human authority figures.**

1 Peter 5:2

“shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight **not under compulsion**, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and **not for sordid gain**, but with eagerness, **nor yet as lording it over** those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.”

**They can be disengaged!**

**They can be self serving!**

**They can micromanage!**

### **Christians have a responsibility to discipline themselves.**

1 Corinthians 10:31

“But if we **judged ourselves rightly**, we would not be judged.”

### **The Body of Christ has a responsibility to discipline itself.**

1 Corinthians 5

“<sup>12</sup> . . . Do you not judge those who are **within the church?** <sup>13</sup> But those who are outside, God judges. “Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.”

### **5. Our judgements should be limited to our spheres of responsibility.**

1 Corinthians 4

“<sup>3</sup> But to me it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. <sup>4</sup> For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”

2 Corinthians 12

“<sup>7</sup> And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me **a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me** - to keep me from exalting myself! <sup>8</sup> Concerning this **I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.** <sup>9</sup> And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”