

John 8:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

Analysis

Jesus contrasts the Pharisees' fleshly judgment with His refusal to judge according to appearances. 'After the flesh' means by external, human standards - reputation, position, ethnicity, wealth. Christ judges by spiritual reality, discerning hearts. When He does judge (v. 16), His judgment is true because it's shared with the Father. This establishes righteous judgment's standard.

Historical Context

Jewish religious authorities judged by Pharisaic tradition, ritual observance, and ethnic identity - external standards. Jesus consistently challenged these superficial measures of righteousness.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. By what standards do you tend to judge others - external or spiritual?
2. How can you develop Christ's discernment of hearts versus appearances?
3. What happens when we judge by human standards rather than God's truth?

Interlinear Text

ὑμεῖς κατὰ τὴν σάρκα κρίνω ἔγὼ οὐ κρίνω οὐδένα
Ye after G3588 the flesh G4561 judge G2919 I G1473 no G3756 judge G2919 man G3762

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 16:7 (Parallel theme): But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

John 12:47 (Judgment): And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

John 7:24 (Judgment): Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

John 3:17 (Parallel theme): For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 18:36 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Romans 2:1 (Judgment): Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

1 Corinthians 2:15 (Judgment): But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

John 8:11 (Parallel theme): She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

Amos 5:7 (Judgment): Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth,

