

Judge, Jury, and Executioner?

by Wayne Goff

A real problem in America today, and one that has invaded the Lord's church as well, is the disposition to be the "judge, jury and executioner." Not only is this *extremely unbiblical*, but it is also very **destructive** to the person, our community, and the church. Why is this?

First, let's look at the **development** of the problem. Someone hears or thinks of a problem with another person, institution, or government. Then they fail to consider other viewpoints, and particularly both sides of the issue, and they become narrow-minded and set in their thinking. This turns into the attitude of "I'm right, and you're wrong." As a result, the person or group becomes **highly critical**, self-righteous in their own judgment, and destructive in their behavior toward that person, institution, or government. It doesn't take much looking around in the news, social media, or among our community to know that this problem is rampant. But dear reader, be sure that it is much easier to be judgmental, condemning, and destructive than it is to be objective, supportive, and uplifting. Some people can destroy a person's reputation, or a local church, or any institution in half the time and with far less effort than it takes to build up the same! This is why the Bible teaches against such things. Let me show you what God says about it:

Matthew 7:1-3

"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?" Jesus is not forbidding judgment, but He is forbidding **unfair judgment**, using two different standards between others and yourself. He also promises that *you will be judged by God* with the same kind of judgment that you judge others! Consider that

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