

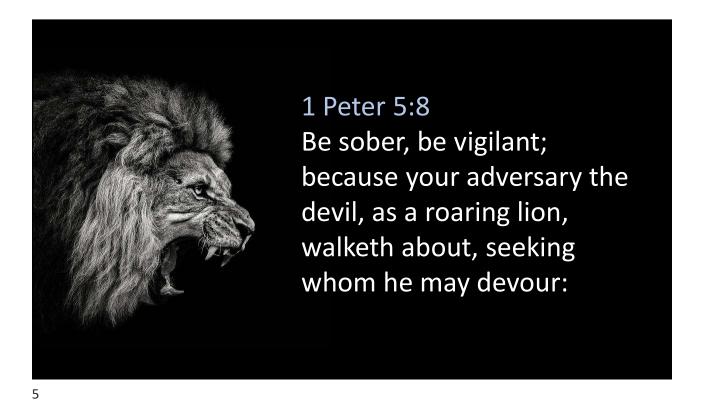
Safety within the Walls (Part 3)

Judge Righteously

(v. 20) Jerusalem's walls are patrolled day and night against invaders, but the real danger is wickedness within the city. Everything is falling apart; threats and cheating are rampant in the streets. It is not an enemy who taunts me—I could bear that.

3

It is not my foes who so arrogantly insult me— I could have hidden from them.
Instead, it is you—my equal, my companion and close friend. What good fellowship we once enjoyed as we walked together to the house of God.



Acts 6:1

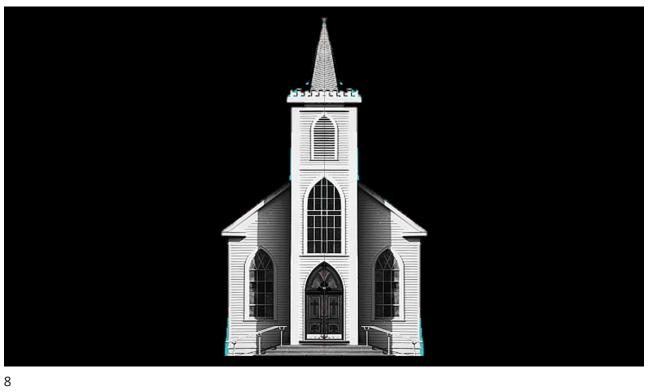
And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

Acts 19:18-20

And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds.

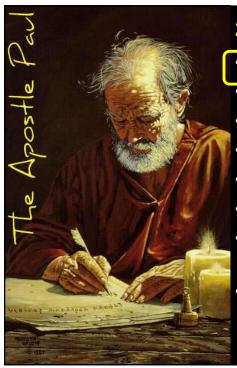
Also many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So, the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.







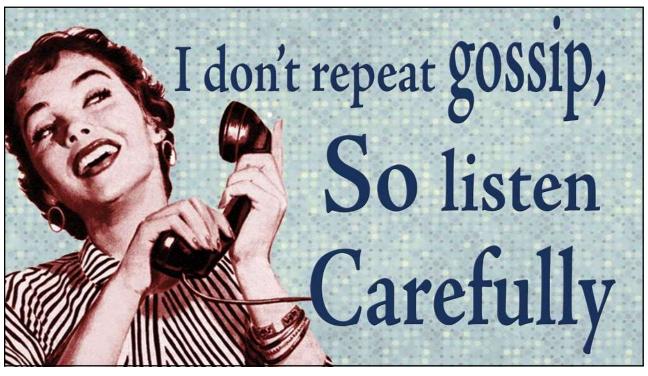




2. Demonstrate AGAPE

- Love is patient and kind.
- Love is not jealous, boastful or proud.
- Love does not misbehave.
- Love is not self seeking.
- Love is not easily angered.
- Love keeps no record of being wronged.
- Love does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.
- Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

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1 REALIZE YOUR FEAR IS IN YOUR HEAD (It's not as scary as you think!) 4. Take the 2 START WITH PEOPLE YOU KNOW (Reach out to acquaintances; Join existing cliques; Meet friends' friends; Accept social invitations) **3** GET YOURSELF OUT THERE (Join meet-up groups; Attend courses; Volunteer; Go to parties) initiative and 4 TAKE THE FIRST STEP (Say hello - It's about being sociable!) 5 BE OPEN (Don't judge. On an emotional level, open your heart.) Make Friends. **6** GET TO KNOW THE PERSON (What does he/she do? What are his/her values? What are his/her passions? Goals? Dreams? What motivates/drives him/her?) **7** CONNECT WITH GENUINITY (Warmth, love and respect build friendships) 8 BE YOURSELF (Don't change yourself for anyone else) 9 BE THERE FOR THEM 10 MAKE THE EFFORT TO STAY IN TOUCH © Celestine Chua; Full article: http://perso

"We are carefully to provide peace with all men what in us lieth, especially with our associates, and for that end watchfulness must be had, that we neither at all in ourselves do give, no nor easily take offence being, given by others."

Pastor John Robinson

- 1. Don't be guilty of offending someone intentionally.
- 2. Don't be guilty of being thin skinned looking for a reason to be offended.



Rabbi Yehoshua ben Perachia (120BC) Mishna -

"Judge each person with the scales weighed in their favor."

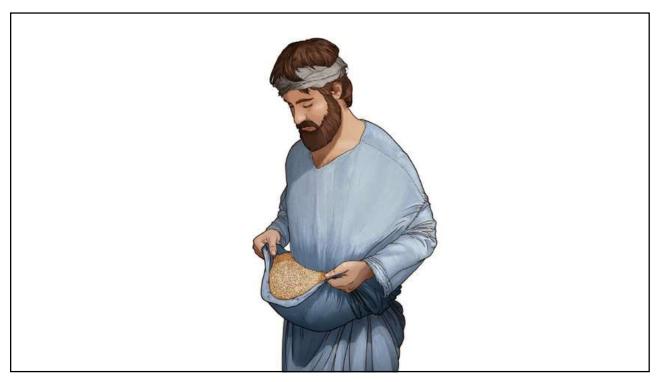
Walking in the dust of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewish words of Jesus can Change your Life, Lois Tverberg, Chapter 8 Taking my Thumb off the Scale

Luke 6:36-38

Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.







"I am never surprised when people act like people – even Christians." (PKB)

- 1. Smile.
- 2. Be patient and kind to everyone.
- 3. Do not Gossip.
- 4. Take the initiative and make friends.
- 5. Never attempt to offend a brother or sister in the church.
- 6. Be careful NOT to take offense easily.
- 7. Evaluate every situation objectively and justly.

Torah (תורה)

"Instruction / guidance"

Deuteronomy 32:4

He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

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Torah (תורה)

"Instruction / guidance"

Deuteronomy 16:18

Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment.

Torah (תורה)

"Instruction / guidance"

Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.

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Torah (תורה)

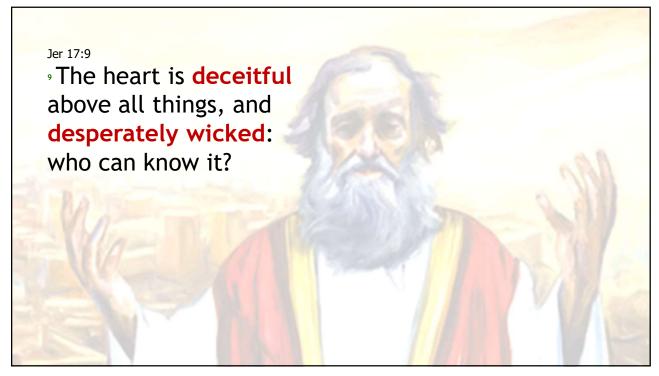
"Instruction / guidance"

Isaiah 11:2-5

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and power, the Spirit of knowledge...he will judge the impoverished justly; he will decide fairly for the humble of the land...(5) Justice will be the belt around his waist, faithfulness the sash around his hips. CIB

A. Recognize that justice is not naturally in your Adamic nature, so you must intentionally bring your Adamic nature into obedience.

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Jeremiah 17:9-10

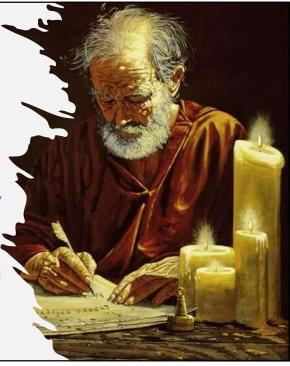
- "The heart is more deceitful than anything else and mortally sick. Who can fathom it?
- ¹⁰ I, *Adonai*, search the heart; I test inner motivations; in order to give to everyone what his actions and conduct deserve."

CJB

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1 Cor 4:1-5

- 1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.
- 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.
- 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. (I don't even trust my own opinion about my own work)
- 4 For I know nothing by myself; (I have a clear conscience) yet am I not hereby justified (Even though my conscience is clear, that doesn't mean I'm right. I don't trust myself or my own opinion, because I recognize that I am biased): but he that judgeth me is the Lord (All that matters is what the Lord thinks).
- 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

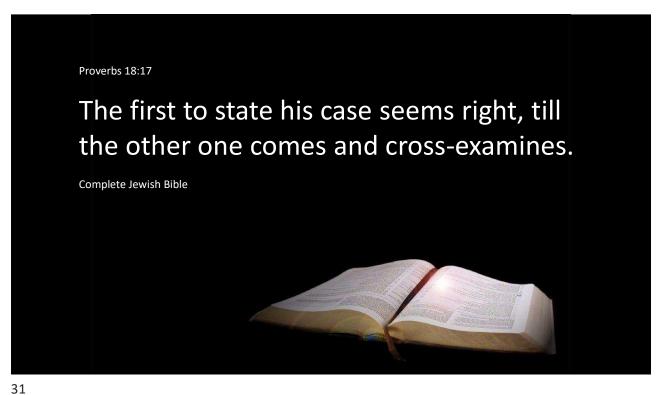




You naturally will see things from your point of view and your view (naturally and on its own), will be biased. Be honest with yourself. You must recognize this and ALWAYS be aware of it, otherwise you will never be objective in your judgment.

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B. Listen to everything but believe nothing. Most people aren't wanting counsel, they are looking for someone to agree with them and take their side in the argument.







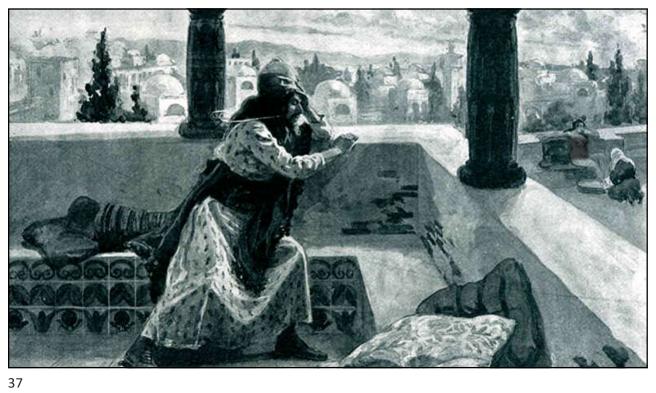


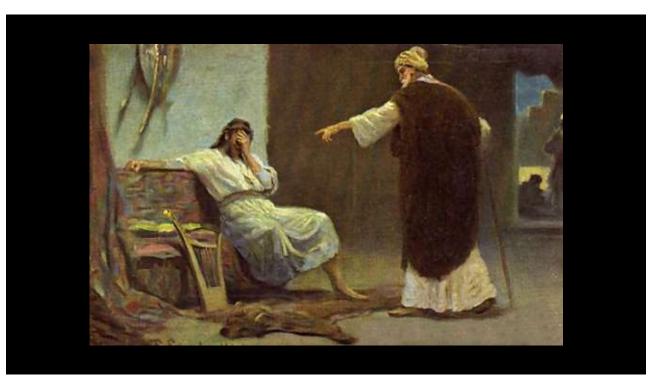
Make sure
YOU
aren't
guilty of
this!



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C. Given enough time, man can justify just about any behavior.





- D. Be objective in your judgement, ESPECIALLY if you are trying to determine a situation in which you yourself are involved Don't trust yourself.
- > David couldn't Nathan drew out his objectivity through judging hypothetically.
- ➤ Paul wouldn't "I have a clear conscience, but I don't trust my own judgement."
- ➤ We shouldn't "The heart is deceitful...who can trust it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

