INVESTIGATION

Understanding The Judgement

(6 - An Understanding of 'Judgement')

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Before going any further on our investigation into the Christian theology of Judgement, we need to lay an important foundation.

What does the word 'judgement' really mean?



www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzzrW1l22qU



IMPORTANT POINTS

• Our understanding of Judgement is framed by our understanding of Father and what he's like

• Our understanding of Father comes from evangelical teaching & that mostly overrides the facts

 Most Christians think of punishment when they hear the word 'judgment' because it's an automatic, conditioned response

• We're conditioned to think that when Father looks at something that he doesn't agree with, he's going to bring punishment

• Evangelical Penal Substitutionary Atonement (PSA) is based on the idea that Father needs appeasement because he's an angry person who needs to pacify his anger by doing something

• Therefore, we have to do something to stop his judgement so he's not angry with us any more

• Doing something to appease him – like tithing – is a works system, not grace

• The word 'judgement' in the Bible has its root meaning in 'verdict' – <u>weighing</u> the evidence and coming to a verdict (a decision)

• 'Judgement' causes us to immediately think of a criminal court that's waiting to find someone guilty so they can be punished

'Justice' – our pet support idea – comes from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil, <u>not</u> the Tree of Life

Therefore it <u>doesn't</u> belong in the Kingdom

• The idea of a judgemental god is what's created all the world's religions, which are works-based and are designed to earn favour with god so you're not punished

 To get to understand Father, you need a face-to-face relationship. Then he'll reveal how he sees all his children and the whole of his creation

 In relationship you'll see that his understanding of judgement is very different from the fundamental right-wing concept of his judgement

• Futurist Eschatology is based on this, where Father will give up on humanity, wipe us out, and start all over again.

• Experiencing Father's deep love will open your heart to see that he loves every person equally

• If Father only loves us when we're good, then his love <u>isn't</u> unconditional

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