

Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide. Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.”
(Psalm 26:1-3)

“Judge not lest you be judged” is a scriptural refrain often quoted but seldom heeded. We quote it when others judge us or when we hear them judging someone we favor. We seldom apply it to ourselves when we engage in the same forbidden practice.

Wrong as it is, we will be judged of men, and few of us can say with the Apostle Paul, “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...but he that judgeth me is the Lord.” To be judged unfavorably by other people is no small thing with most of us. The thing that bothers us most about it is not the untruth in their opinions but our knowledge of (or at least our fear of) some truth in what they are saying or thinking. Blessed indeed, then, is the person who can sincerely commit the judgment of himself to the Lord God from Whom nothing is hidden, and Who can judge justly.

In order for us to be able to do this sincerely, to unhesitatingly submit ourselves to the just Judge of all the earth, to openly invite His meticulous inspection and His exacting trial, there are a number of things that we ought to be able to say.

Can we say, “I have walked in my integrity?” I may not have done everything right, but I have acted according to the best of my understanding. My intentions were upright and beyond reproach. I had no hidden unworthy motives in my actions.

Have I trusted in the Lord? Have my actions been, not only what I thought was right but also what I understood was the Lord’s will for me? Have I acted in obedience and trust in Him?

Has my whole heart been in my deeds, or have I behaved hypocritically? Was it the real “me” that was performing or some acting role I assumed?

Is the lovingkindness of the Lord my motivation in all things, or selfish gain? Have I walked in His truth, according to instructions sought and received from the Word of God?

If we can answer these questions of ourselves rightly, we can be assured that even though our works may have been imperfect we “shall not slide.” God will uphold us, and regardless of the opinions of men He will uphold us by His mighty power.

-C.M.