

Righteous?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church
Luke 7:39, "Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner."
 This scripture shows the attitude of a man who valued himself very highly. He thought that he was righteous and better than other folks. Any that he might have respected would have to be Pharisees like himself. Surely if a man wanted to be right with God and to be approved of the Pharisees he would have to be a Pharisee wouldn't he? Without knowing what he was doing he even judged Jesus as someone less than himself. There are many with a similar attitude today. They are so filled with their own self-righteousness that there is no room for anyone else in their eyes.
2 Corinthians 10:18, "For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth." There are some churches who feel that they, and they alone, are pleasing to God. Anyone else is

lost and has no hope according to the way that they see it. If only they would read, and believe, the bible they would see that the Lord is the judge, not them. It seems that they are more interested in getting others to be like them than to be like Jesus. Satan is our adversary, not people. The devil loves it when those who say that they serve God hate, look down on others and even fight against those whom they deem unworthy.
 I have known of some over the years who wouldn't share communion with anyone who was not a member of that particular congregation. In the many times I have read the bible I must have missed the scripture for that. No, I didn't miss it for it is not in the bible. It comes from the self-righteousness of man. One man that I heard said that he had his wife, who was a Christian, baptized into his church. Once again, that's not in the bible. They were saying you have to submit to me and my ways to be saved. Those who feel this way need to go back to the bible and learn what Jesus taught to those who would follow him. Friends you don't have to be like me to be saved. I urge you to be like Jesus and to do what he has said for us to do.
Isaiah 65:5 says in part, "Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for

I am holier than thou." This is said to be the creed of the Pharisees, maybe it is, but whether it is, or not, it is the creed of the self-righteous. God hates this attitude in anyone, especially in those who say that they are serving God. In **Luke 18**, once again, it tells of a Pharisee who looked down on another man who had come to pray. Jesus said that the publican, who humbled himself, went away justified rather than the Pharisee. If we looked at the Pharisee we would have thought of him as a good man. He had a lot of good works while the publican was a tax collector working for the Romans. Yet, this scripture shows us once again that it is God who decided who is accepted, not man.
 If a person does something that is wrong in God's eyes, try to gently show him what the Lord says about it. Pray for him, and for yourself, that you both would be right in the sight of God. **Galatians 6:1**, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."
 When he says tempted what is he referring too? Tempted to feel superior, better, and more holy than that person. The warning is that we may fall too.

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