

But I Don't See It That Way!

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We all evaluate our life's experiences in some context. Because we have deceitful hearts, it is possible to evaluate those experiences inaccurately. During this session we will examine four areas in which we as women might easily fail to discern between truth and error. The growing believer must maintain vigilance to discern the differences between what God is and what we are.

Hebrews 5:14 – *But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to **discern good and evil**.*

When the serpent misled Eve in the Garden of Eden, did Eve truly learn to discern between *good and evil* or for that matter, *wisdom and folly, truth and error*? Or was she, as we are, so deceived that instead of truly discerning between good and evil, she chose to see it her way.

Are we sufficiently growing in the Lord so that we can always discern **good and evil, wisdom and folly, or truth and error**?

I. Explaining the nature of discernment

A. Discernment is influenced by worldview.

The comprehensive collection of beliefs by which we perceive our life's experiences

Do men and women view the world differently?

Do children view the world differently than adults do?

Do all people share the same political views?

Do all people deal with their own personal struggles the same way?

B. Proper discernment always involves struggle.

1. Deceitful hearts – we can easily believe a lie.

Jeremiah 17:9

2. Lifelong battle – we will always face this struggle.

Romans 7:14-25

C. Proper discernment requires intervention.

Without intervention our sinful hearts will always prevent us from having the ability to discern what is right.

1. Salvation – the work of Christ alone to regenerate our sinful hearts
2. Sanctification – the continued work of Christ to change us to be like Him

II. Examples of erroneous thinking

How I Might See It

How I Ought to See It

A. “I can’t forgive myself”

I Corinthians 6:9-11

I John 1:9

Psalm 85:10

Ephesians 4:32

Philippians 3:13,14

We cannot always forget the past, but we can learn to put it in the right context.

B. “If I don’t have the love and acceptance of others, I can’t be happy.”

Jeremiah 17:5-7

Psalm 27:10

Psalm 56:4,11

When we fear what others think of us, we replace God with people.

C. “As a woman I have a right to be irritable.”

Philippians 4:4,11

Nehemiah 8:10

James 1:19

We ought “to feel just as good when we feel bad as we do when we feel good.”

D. "I only want my children to be happy."

Ecclesiastes 12:13,14

Proverbs 20:11

Psalm 127

Ephesians 6:1-4

When our goal for our children is that they be happy, we miss the essence of who they are in the sight of God.

III. Exercising the sense of discernment

We must be growing in biblical discernment.

A. We must be **KNOWING HIM and HIS WORD.**

II Peter 3:18

Hebrews 4:12

B. We must be **UNDERSTANDING the PROCESS.**

II Corinthians 3:18

C. We must **BE RENEWING our MINDS.**

Romans 12:1,2

D. We must be **UNDERSTANDING the GOAL.**

Hebrews 5:13,14

As we grow, we will be more able to discern the difference between what God is and what I am.