

An Exercise To Discern Both Good and Evil (Hebrews 5:14)

What's That In The Trash?

Scenario:

You are invited to the home of a member of the congregation for a meal and social interaction. You know this brother or sister in Christ fairly well. He or she has been a member of the same congregation with you for a number of years. However, you have not been to his or her home before. After you eat and spend some time talking after the meal, you are helping to clean up. When you take some items to the trash can you notice a beer can in the trash. You are uncomfortable. You are unsure how to approach the situation. You don't want to jump to a conclusion, but you feel you cannot leave it alone either as there could be many things going on. You don't want to ignore it in the unlikely event it is a problem. So, in a later discussion, you ask them about the beer can in the trash. You say: "I know you don't drink alcohol. I happened to notice a beer can in your trash. I have to ask. Did someone throw a beer can in your yard or something and you just cleaned it up?"

Statement That Arises From Our Scenario:

In response, your brother or sister says: "I don't think I have to answer this question. You are making a subtle accusation against me. This is why I don't have brethren into my home. It is like you are here investigating me or something."

A Later Statement Is Made:

"You said you know I don't drink alcohol. How do you know that? You've never taken interest in me before today. Maybe I like beer. Maybe my doctor told me to drink it like Paul told Timothy to drink for his stomach problem. Maybe it is my beer can and maybe I have a right for it to be."

For Discussion: What do you see in those statements?