

Rightly Divide Rather Than Self-Justify

I. Introduction:

- A. We are justified by doing the Lord's will (**Romans 2:13** and **James 2:21-26**).
 - 1. This is through His grace (**Romans 3:24** and **Titus 2:11-14**).
 - 2. If we seek to be justified by Christ, and yet sin, we are doing what God forbids (**Galatians 2:17**).
- B. When we approach the Scriptures and/or spiritual discussions, we must rightly divide [properly handle] the word of truth (**II Timothy 2:14-18**).
 - 1. Don't come to the word of God to justify something you have already concluded to be right (**Matthew 22:23-33**).
 - 2. Don't approach the Scriptures and/or spiritual discussions with a unwillingness to accept and obey the right answer because of how you "feel" about that answer (**Acts 28:17-27**).
 - 3. When God's people are unwilling to listen, they are "haters of the Lord" (**Psalms 81:10-15**).

II. Body: **Luke 10:25-37**

- A. We know all we need to know when we read that this lawyer was "tempted" [tested] Christ knowing Christ was the "Master" (**Matthew 4:7** and **I Corinthians 10:9**).
 - 1. For the most part, the "lawyers" had a pattern of rejecting the truth and being a hinderance to others (**Luke 11:45-46; 52**).
 - 2. They were unwilling to submit to the Lord's will (**Luke 7:24-30**).
 - 3. Question for me/you: Do you have a problem with absolute submission to the will of Christ? Absolute submission to His will is required for us to be saved (**Matthew 28:20, Romans 14:7-9, II Corinthians 5:14-17, II Corinthians 10:1-5, II Thessalonians 1:7-9, and I John 2:15-17**)?
- B. It is not that they were unable to reason or learn (**Luke 10:26-28**; cf. **Deuteronomy 6:5**).
 - 1. Sometimes people reason themselves away from the truth (**Luke 20:1-8**).
 - 2. Use reason properly (**Proverbs 3:5-7, Proverbs 16:25, and Acts 17:1-5; 10-11**).
 - 3. Guard against what you are comfortable with through tradition or what is reasonable carnally (**Colossians 2:4-8**).
- C. But he, willing to justify himself... (**Luke 18:9-14**).
 - 1. Don't be self-deceived (**Romans 12:1-3** and **Galatians 6:3**).
 - 2. Self-justification won't save you (**Proverbs 20:6, Proverbs 28:13, Romans 10:1-3, and I John 1:8-10**).
 - 3. No person, of yourself or themselves, are the standard by which you are measured (**II Corinthians 10:12; 18**).

D. Now, not to have someone go to the other extreme, we cannot condemn ourselves unjustly by OVERTHINKING things and making things harder than Christ intended (**I John 5:2-3**).

1. Sometimes people create their own guilt or impossible standard of themselves. Stop listening to your own ways (**Isaiah 55:6-9**).

2. Justification through Christ [not yourself] should bring you to peace rather than bondage (**Romans 5:1**).

3. Remember: *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus [John 15:7-10], who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit”* (**Romans 8:1**).

III. Conclusion: **Luke 16:15**