



What Is "Discrimination"? by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

"Discrimination" is the quality or power of finely distinguishing," or making judgments. Making moral judgments based upon what God says is exactly what God wants us to do. Solomon asked God to:

Give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours? (**1 Kings 3:9**).

Making "judgments" and "discerning" on the basis of "good and evil" is what God's "wisdom" is all about. Jesus called

"Hypocrites! [those who] can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how is it you do not discern this time? Yes, and why, even of yourselves, do you not judge what is right?" (**Luke 12:56-57**).

When is this ever wrong?

There Is A Wrong Standard

Discrimination is bad when the wrong standard is used, for instance, things people cannot help: skin or kin. However, the right standard is set by God's moral values for His people. David said,

Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments (**Psalms 119:66**).

Christians are told that:

Everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil (**Hebrews 5:13-14**).

It is by exercising our moral values that we can tell the difference between "good and evil," and there is a difference! It is wrong to discriminate because of skin, but right and essential to discriminate right from wrong.

Daily Discrimination

[Lot] pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD (**Genesis 13:12-13**).

Sodom was so wicked, homosexual men took to the streets and demanded their "right" to have carnal relations with Lot's visitors (**Genesis 19:1-7**). The New Testament says,

[God] delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) (**2 Peter 2:7-8**).

Righteous people must make daily discrimination about the morally bankrupt conduct of those around them, whether or not the "laws of the land" agree. No demonstration in the street by sinful people can change God's moral law to choose between good and evil.

What Happens Without Discrimination

Solomon said,

A wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment, because for every matter there is a time and judgment (**Ecclesiastes 8:5-6**).

Today, Christians are:

... Those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil (**Hebrews 5:14**).

Skin color is no basis for discrimination, but a moral decision is! If discrimination against skin is opposed along with discrimination against the immoral, then Solomon:

... Saw under the sun: In the place of judgment, wickedness was there; and in the place of righteousness, *iniquity* was there (**Ecclesiastes 3:16**).

This is "throwing out the baby with the bathwater." Throwing out *all* "discrimination" because *some* of it is wrong destroys the difference between "good and evil." Jesus said,

"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment" (**John 7:24**).

Righteous Discrimination Is Highest

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith (**Hebrews 11:7**).

Noah could not obey God in building the Ark without "condemning the world." What if a State or Federal Law had been passed that told Noah he could not "condemn the world," but had to permit everyone who wanted to enter that Ark? Amendment I of the United States Constitution says:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Discrimination based on moral values is "the free exercise thereof." The religion of Jesus Christ cannot be confined to "church buildings" by government decree without violating the U.S. Constitution's 1st Amendment!

It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, Or to overthrow the righteous in judgment (**Proverbs 18:5**).

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