

**SUNDAY'S LUNCH MENU: ROAST PREACHER**  
**"LEAVE THE JUDGING OF THE PREACHER TO GOD"**

**INTRODUCTION**

I pray this lesson does not sound like a gripe session, personal harangue, tirade, or grumbling.

**(1 Cor. 4:1-5)** "Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing **that I should be judged by you** or by a human court. In fact, **I do not even judge myself**. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but **he who judges me is the Lord**"

**(Romans 14:13)** "Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but **judge this** rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way."

"let us not judge" - judging from ill-will; judging whose design is destruction, slander, or defamation of character; judging that is harsh, without charity, is malicious.  
**Do not crush** (destroy) the spirit of the preacher and cause him to quit.

Yes, we in our humanness will: criticize, express opinions, evaluate, assess, nitpick, roast.

**THREE COURTS OF JUDGMENT TOWARD THE PREACHER** (text)

**1. THE COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION** - this court is always in session!

"it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you"

So, yes, the members will express likes and dislikes, evaluate, roast, and "judge."

We serve a Savior who didn't meet expectations, didn't look like a Savior; however, the Savior didn't stop His ministry. (He answered to a higher court)

Expression: "Walk a mile in their shoes before you criticize."

But don't ignore this "small thing" court: (Luke 2:52; Acts 2:47; 1 Timothy 3:7)

**2. THE COURT OF PERSONAL CONSCIENCE** - not a reliable guide!

"In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified."

"Conscience" - inner voice which approves or disapproves our attitude and action.

In my self-assessment, I'm OK; however, "yet I am not justified by this."

Example: (Acts 23:1 and Acts 24:16) and the warning: (Prov. 28:26; Jer. 10:23)

**3. THE COURT OF HEAVEN** - the court that really matters!

"but he who judges me is the Lord"

The Judge: (Acts 10:42; Acts 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Timothy 4:8)  
The standard for judgment: (John 12:48)