

Bible Study Thought-Provoking Questions



The purpose of the questions is to facilitate a deeper understanding of the Bible, this Bible study topic and ourselves. The questions may be answered by each reader, or used by a Bible study group leader or church pastor. The following questions should be answered or discussed after reading “Judgment vs. Spiritual Discernment.”

There are two types of questions: lesson and opinion. Lesson questions (preceded by a number) are provided an answer. Opinion questions (preceded by an ©) are designed to enhance learning via the determination of opinions and/or discovering how the lesson content illuminates our personal lives. As such, no answers are provided.

Questions

1. 10 attributes of humans separate us from the animal kingdom were listed. Can you identify 3?
 - © Which of the 10 do you think is most important? Explain.
 - © The writing states the 10 attributes are spiritual and not physical. Can you identify at least 1 spiritual relevance (or spiritual purpose) for each attribute?
2. Which attribute was identified as the primary reason why we judge and form opinions of other persons?
 - © How is this attribute used to judge and form opinions of other persons?
3. Identify 3 reasons that can misdirect our ability to accurately judge and form opinions of other persons.
 - © Is it good or bad to judge other persons? Explain.
4. What is an external indicator?
 - © Are external indicators reliable in determining the true nature of a person? Explain.
5. What is an internal influencer?
 - © Are internal influencers reliable in determining the true nature of a person? Explain.
6. Two different types of trauma were discussed. What are the two and what is the difference?
 - © 9 comparative examples of fleshly judgment vs. spiritual discernment are listed below. Overall, which side of the table best describes you? Plus, is there room for improvement? If yes, where/how?

Fleshly Judgment	Spiritual Discernment
Question why they act this way	Able to gain insight into possible reasons for behavior
No prayer	Yielding to and seeking guidance by the Holy Spirit
Not scripturally based	Foundationally supported by scripture
Based upon external indicators	Based upon internal influencers
Disdain (considered unworthy / inferior)	Sympathy
Contempt (despise who they are or do)	Compassion
Condescension (patronizing / haughtiness)	Humility
Arrogance (self-important / superiority)	Servant
Anger	Agape

- © Review the table again. How would you define the “core” difference between fleshly judgment and spiritual discernment?
7. What are 3 ways to enhance spiritual discernment (page 7)?
 - © Can you identify at least 1 thing you learned about judgment vs. spiritual discernment, and 1 thing you learned about yourself?

Answers

1. Page 1: Communicate in various ways; analyze things based upon different viewpoints; recognize right from wrong; make free-will decisions; experience emotions; respond with gratitude; reflect with remorse/guilt; forgive; express faith; self-awareness and self-analysis.
2. Page 3: self-awareness and self-analysis
3. Page 3: hardened self-centered heart; tainted soul; distorted perception of the world; we are often influenced by initial impressions; it is difficult to see beyond someone's "mask" or persona they are projecting; it is difficult to look directly into their heart; and our judgments may be influenced by prejudices, family, friends, cultural norms and the media.
4. Page 4: What is shown to the "outside world," such as behavior; what is said and how it is said; how someone is dressed; physical mannerisms; facial expressions; and degree of eye contact.
5. Page 4: What's going on inside, such as scars from traumatic experiences; emotional responses to life's stresses, fears, anxieties, etc.; consequences of sin and living in darkness.
6. Page 4: Something they should not have experienced (physical / mental abuse, broken home, etc.), something they should have experienced but did not (loving and supportive family, realization of self-worth and capabilities, etc.)
7. Page 5. Prayer, biblical understanding, Holy Spirit