

# Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful



## “Dull of Hearing”

“We have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.” (Hebrews 5:11).

### Three Types of People The Unsaved Person

#### First Corinthians 2:14,

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

#### The Normal Christian

The dictionary meaning of “normal” is, “conforming to an expected standard.”

#### First Corinthians 2:15,

“He that is spiritual judgeth all things.”

The normal Christians are “spiritual” and they judge “all things.”

#### The Abnormal Christian

#### First Corinthians 3:1-2,

“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.”

The abnormal christian does not conform to the expected standards. He is not capable of judging, and will criticize God’s normal Christians for judging. What part of “He that is spiritual judgeth all things” is too difficult to understand?

We are told in Hebrews 5:11-14 that these abnormal Christians are “dull of hearing.” Paul’s message to that kind of Christian is recorded in Ephesians 4:15. He said, “grow up!”

### Discerning Both Good And Evil

We are told in Hebrews 5:14 that normal Christians will have his “senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” Verse thirteen tells us the abnormal Christian is a “babe.” The Greek word is translated “childish” in First Corinthians where Paul said,

#### First Corinthians 13:11,

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

#### A Child Is Incapable of Discerning

If you put a child on the floor with a kitten and a rattle snake, the child will not discern the dangers of the snake. Discernment is only available to “those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:14).



The normal Christian will have no problem recognizing the snakes. John the Baptist recognized, and exposed the “generation of vipers” (Matthew 3:7) of his day. In Matthew 23:23, Jesus recognized and exposed them also. He said, “Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?”

The reason apostasy is flooding our churches today is because of the shortage of normal Christians. We are plagued with an abnormal leadership who can’t judge the difference or are too cowardly to judge if they could.

## “That I May Discern”

Solomon asked the Lord for a heart that was capable of discerning.

### **First Kings 3:9,**

*“Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?”*

As parents and pastors, we would be wise to seek the same discernment to handle our responsibilities.

## “Teach My People”

### **Ezekiel 44:23,**

*“Teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.”*

As parents and pastors, we need to realize that the people in our homes and in our churches are HIS people. We have the awesome responsibility to teach them “to discern between the unclean and the clean.”

### **Malachi 3:18,**

*“Discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.*



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