Judgments and Viewpoints

I. Introduction & Definition—From J.P. Louw & E.A. Nida
Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains.


A. Have an Opinion, Hold a View (31.1-31.7)
B. Hold a Wrong View, Be Mistaken (31.8-31.13)
C. Agree, Consent (31.14-31.25)
D. Acknowledge (31.26-31.28)
E. Suppose, Think Possible (31.29-31.34)
F. Believe To Be True (31.35-31.49)
G. Accept As True (31.50-31.57)
H. Change an Opinion Concerning Truth (31.58-31.81)
I. Trust, Rely (31.82-31.101)
J. Be a Believer, Christian Faith (31.102-31.107)

A. (31.1) φρονέω (Gal. 5:10); κρίνω (Acts 15:19); λογίζομαι (2nd Cor. 10:2; Lk. 22:37); ἡγέομαι (Phil. 2:25); ἔχω: to hold a view or have an opinion with regard to something—‘to hold a view, to have an opinion, to consider, to regard.’
B. (31.2) λόγου ποιέομαι: (an idiom, literally ‘to make of reason’) to have an opinion based on some reason—‘to consider, to regard, to hold a view, to be of the opinion.’ (Acts 20:24)
C. (31.3) γνώμη: that which is regarded or considered to be the case—‘what is considered, opinion.’ (1st Cor. 7:40; Philem. 14)
D. (31.4) θέλω: to have a particular view or opinion about something—‘to be of an opinion, to think something is so.’ (2nd Pet. 3:5)
E. (31.5) λέγω ἐν ἑαυτῷ: (an idiom, literally ‘to speak to oneself’) to think about something without communicating the content to others—‘to think to oneself, to say to oneself’ (often used to introduce a direct quotation of one’s thoughts). (Matt. 9:3,21)
F. (31.6) νοέω: to be able to form some idea about—‘to be able to form an idea, to imagine.’ (Eph. 3:20)
G. (31.7) ἱστάμαι ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ: (an idiom, literally ‘to stand at the heart’) to continue to have an opinion—‘to keep on being of an opinion, to remain with an opinion, to continue in one’s views.’ (1st Cor. 7:37)
II. Development & Application—Principles of Forming Judgments.

A. Our judgment is formed by the Word of God.
   1. Our judgment becomes sound judgment as the Word of God renews our mind and transforms us (Rom. 12:1-3).
   2. Our judgment will mature with our growth in Christ (1st Cor. 13:11).
   3. Our judgment is ultimately grounded upon the faithfulness of God to His own promises (Heb. 11:11).

B. Our judgment allows us to apply the Word of God to specific circumstances of life (Lk. 7:43; Acts 15:19; 26:2; 1st Cor. 11:13).
   1. Accurate Bible teaching will give us accurate judgment concerning the empty idolatry of this fallen world (Acts 19:27).
   2. Accurate Bible teaching will give us accurate judgment concerning the battle against personal sins in our daily life (Rom. 6:11).
   3. Accurate Bible teaching will give us accurate judgment concerning our spiritual leaders and their stewardship ministry towards us (1st Cor. 4:1; Phil. 2:29; 1st Thess. 5:13).
   4. Accurate Bible teaching will give us accurate judgment concerning temporal life details and the surpassing value of spiritual life in Christ (Acts 20:24; Phil. 3:7,8; Heb. 11:26).
   5. Accurate Bible teaching will give us accurate judgment concerning the various trials that the Father supplies for our growth (Jms. 1:2).
   6. Accurate Bible teaching will give us accurate judgment concerning the Lord’s timetable (2nd Pet. 3:15).
   7. We ought to show judgment regarding messages that we hear (1st Cor. 10:15 cf. Acts 17:11).

C. Our judgments concerning our fellow believers.
   1. Our judgment concerning one another reflects the manner in which we bear one another’s burdens (Phil. 1:7).
   2. Our judgment will blend as we grow in the Lord towards like-mindedness (Rom. 12:16; 15:5; 1st Cor. 1:10; 2nd Cor. 13:11; Phil. 2:2; 3:15; 4:2).
   3. The Lord even supplies like-mindedness to the unbelievers as they unite together in their human judgment against His directive will (Rev. 17:17).
   4. Our judgment can be influenced negatively by tolerated iniquity within the congregation (Gal. 5:7-10).
   5. Our judgment towards erring believers must always be bound by our family relationship in Christ (2nd Thess. 3:15).
   6. We ought to show judgment regarding faithfulness for useful service (Acts 16:15; 2nd Cor. 8:10; 9:5; Phil. 2:25; 1st Tim. 1:12).
   7. Our judgment concerning others’ spirituality (and others’ judgment concerning our spirituality) may be flawed (Lk. 22:37; 2nd Cor. 10:2).
   8. Believers ought to look to their spiritual leaders for their judgment when controversies or uncertainties need to be resolved (Acts 28:21; 1st Cor. 7:25,26).

D. Good judgment allows us to walk with care in the angelic conflict (Matt. 10:16; Acts 20:3).

III. Summary & Conclusion

A. God’s judgment is infinitely higher than our own (Isa. 55:9).
B. The goal is to adjust our human judgment to His divine judgment (Phil. 2:5).
C. The Father’s provision through prayer is greater than the capacity of human judgment to think or even imagine (Eph. 3:20).