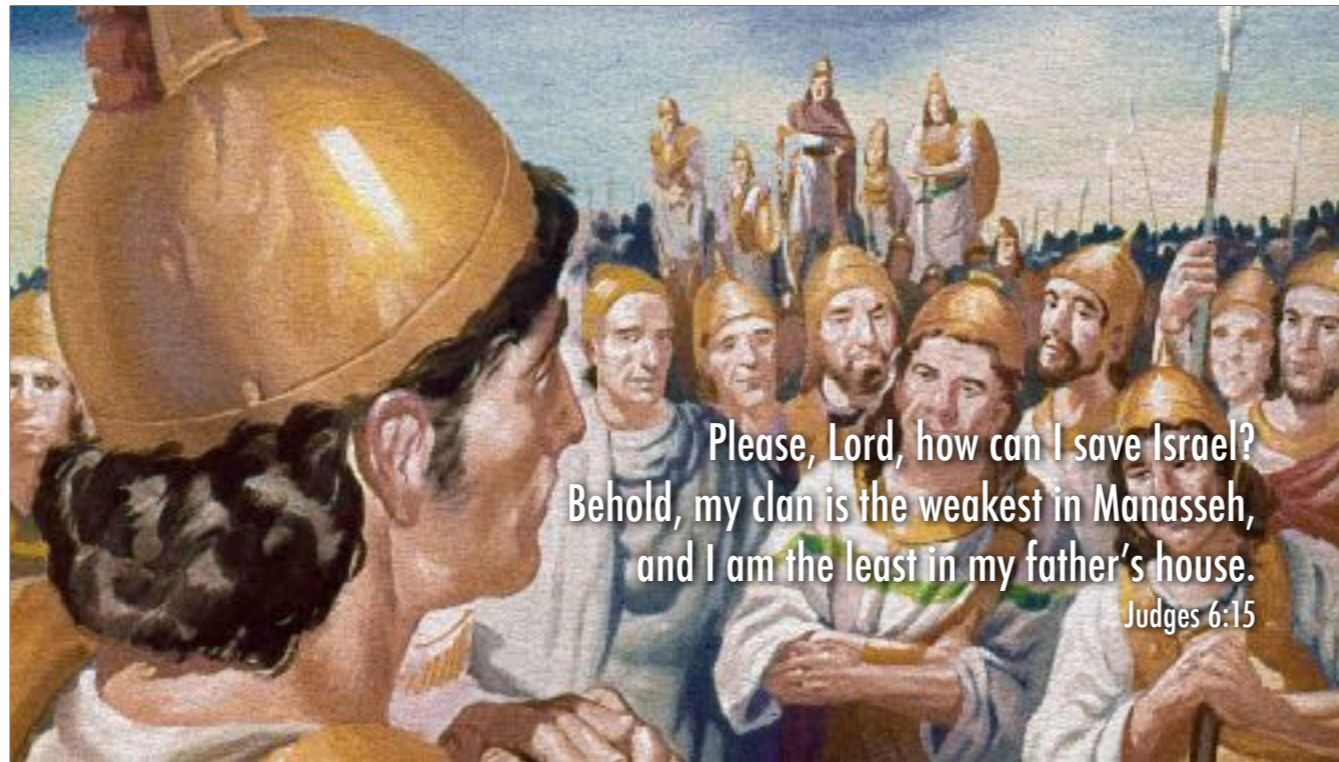




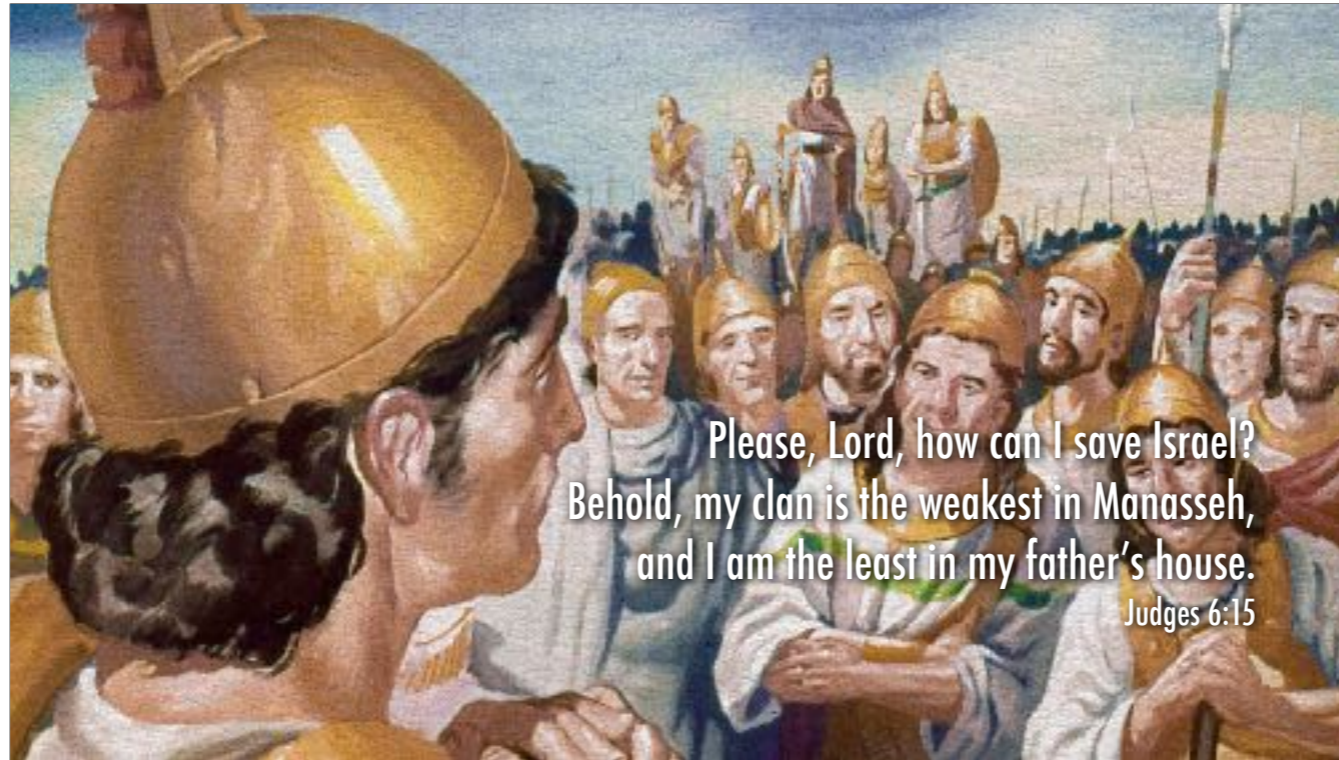
Think with
Sober Judgment
Romans 12:3

Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
Judges 17:6; 21:25

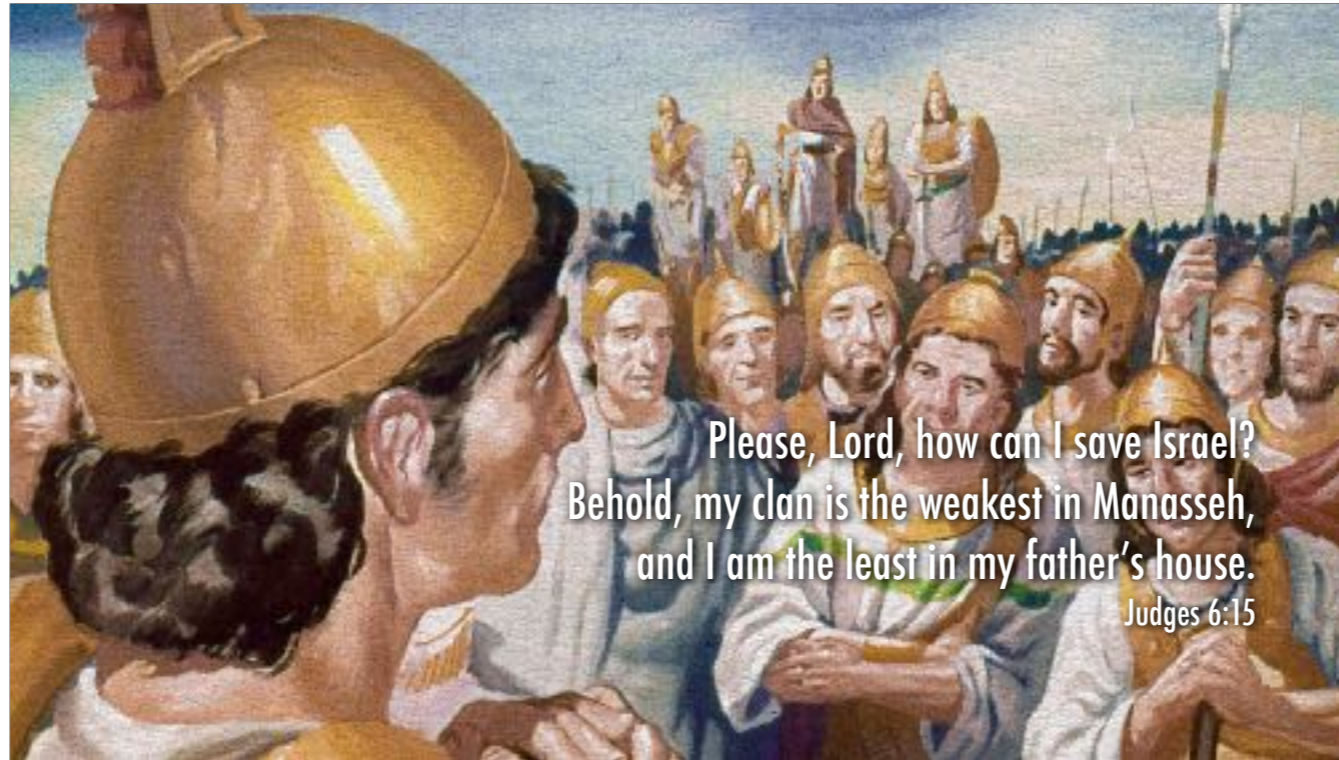
- Judges 17:6 (ESV) 6 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
- Judges 21:25 (ESV) 25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.



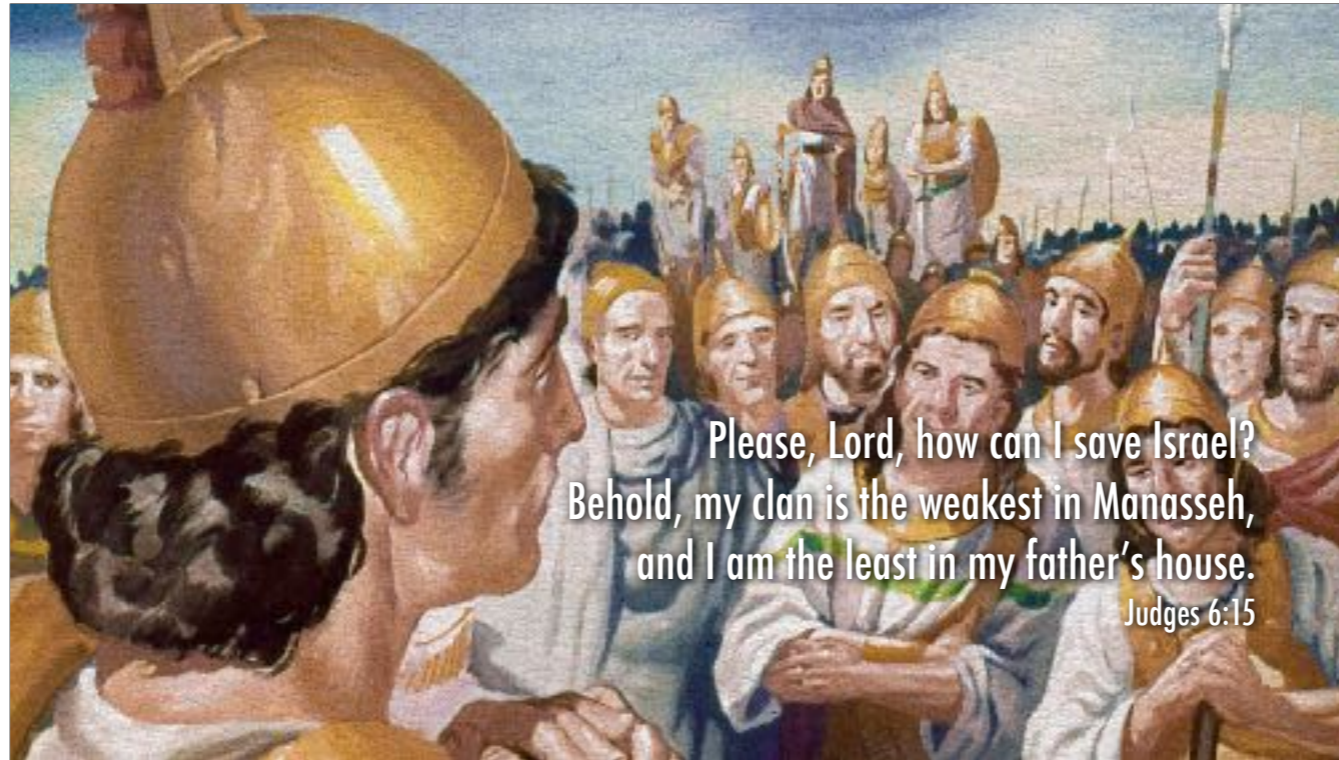
- Gideon
- Judges 6:15 (ESV) And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."
- Tearing down alter of Baal
- Defeating Midian



- Offer to be King: Judges 8:22-28 (ESV)
- 22 Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, you and your son and your grandson also, for you have saved us from the hand of Midian." 23 Gideon said to them, "**I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the Lord will rule over you.**"



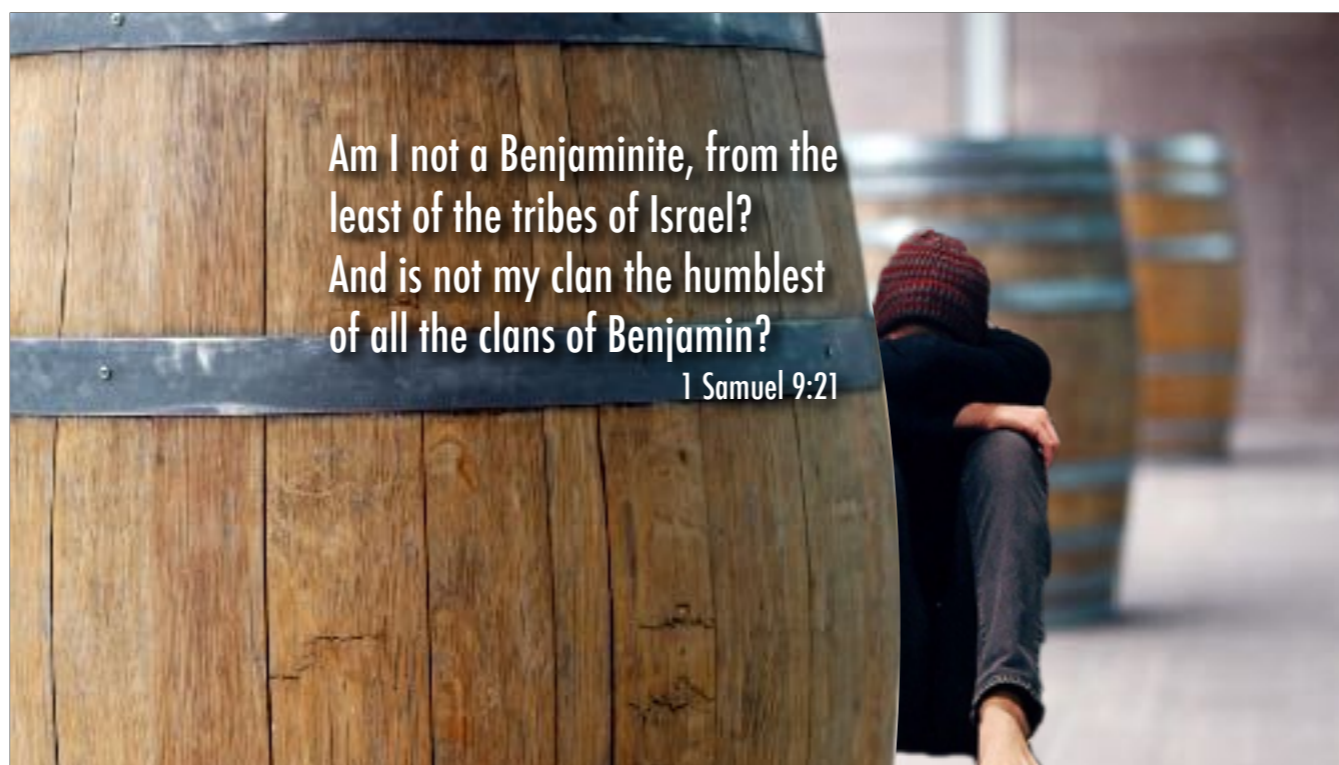
- Judges 8:27 And Gideon made an ephod of it and put it in his city, in Ophrah. And all Israel whored after it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and to his family. 28 So Midian was subdued before the people of Israel, and they raised their heads no more. And the land had rest forty years in the days of Gideon.



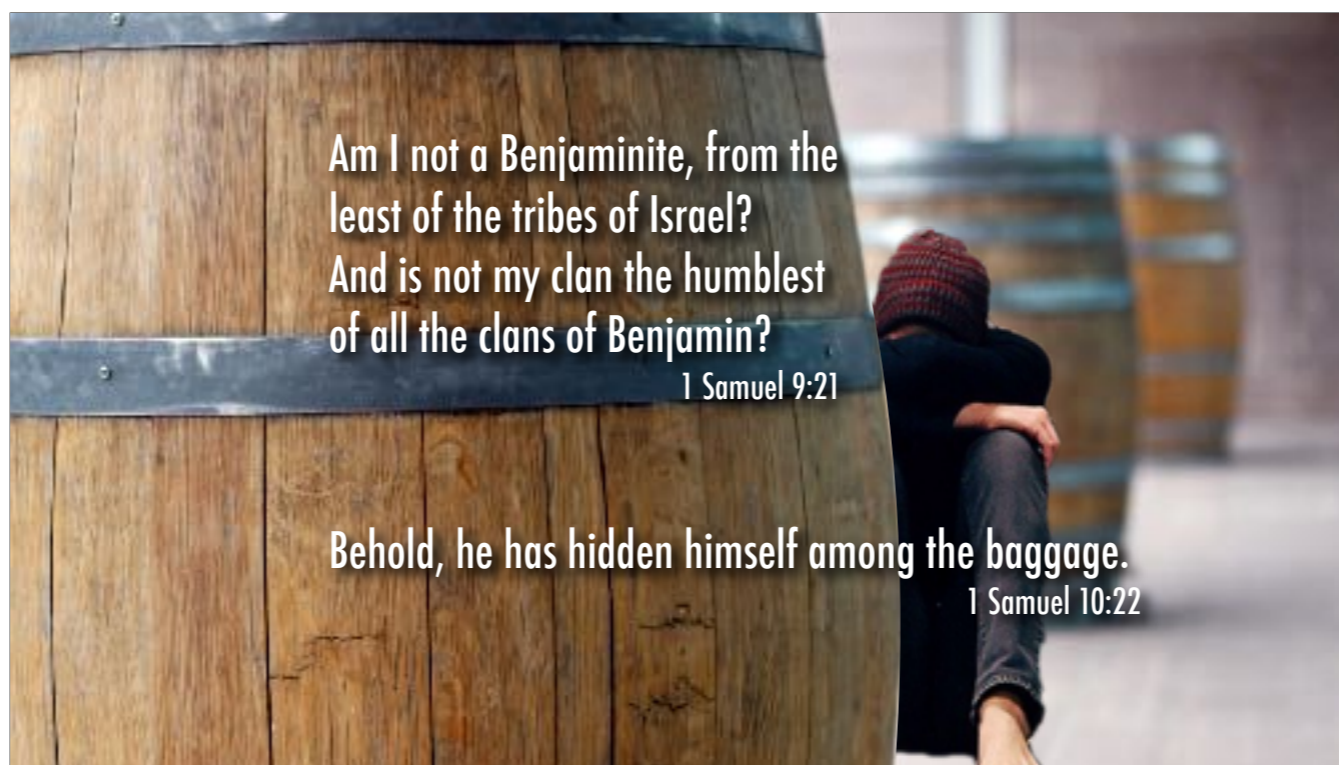
- Abimelech (son of Gideon by different mother):
 - Judges 9:2 (ESV) "Say in the ears of all the leaders of Shechem, 'Which is better for you, that all seventy of the sons of Jerubbaal rule over you, or that one rule over you?' Remember also that I am your bone and your flesh."



- 1 Samuel 15:17 And Samuel said, “Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel.
- (HCSB) Samuel continued, “Although you once considered yourself unimportant, have you not become the leader of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel



- 1 Samuel 9:21 (ESV) 21 Saul answered, “Am I not a Benjaminite, from the least of the tribes of Israel? And is not my clan the humblest of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then have you spoken to me in this way?”



- 1 Samuel 10:21-22 (ESV) 21 He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot; and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found. 22 So they inquired again of the Lord, “Is there a man still to come?” and the Lord said, “Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage.”



- 1 Samuel 15:18 And the Lord sent you on a mission and said, ‘Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’
19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?’ 20 And Saul said to Samuel, “I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction. 21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.”



- What changed in Saul?
 - Perhaps Saul never felt like he should have been king... so listened to the people instead of restraining them.
 - Was it, at least in part, how he thought of himself: "I'm the King." "It's good to be the king."



- Romans 12:2 (ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- Finally where we read Paul's instructions for this transformation to the image of Christ.
 - Where does Paul begin?
 - What do I need to change first?
 - Stop sinning? Moral behavior? (sexual sins, e.g.)
 - Start doing good things?
 - Worship?



For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Romans 12:3

- Romans 12:3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
- First, and most vital, transformation is how I think about myself!
 - Specifically: must stop thinking too highly of myself
 - Here Paul is telling us that the greatest obstacle I must overcome to being like Jesus is how I think of myself
 - more highly than I ought to think.
- Who: “everyone among you”
 - Uh oh!
- Where is my heart?



- My Own Eyes

My Own Eyes

Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him. (Proverbs 26:12)



- Proverbs 26:12 (ESV) 12 Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

My Own Eyes

Be not wise in your own eyes (Proverbs 3:7)



- Proverbs 3:7 (ESV) Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

My Own Eyes

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes (Proverbs 12:15)



- Proverbs 12:15 (ESV) 15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.

My Own Eyes

All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes (Proverbs 16:2)



- Proverbs 16:2 (ESV) 2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit.

My Own Eyes

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes (Proverbs 21:2)



- Proverbs 21:2 (ESV) 2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart.

•

My Own Eyes

A rich man is wise in his own eyes (Proverbs 28:11)



- Proverbs 28:11 (ESV) A rich man is wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has understanding will find him out.

•

My Own Eyes

There are those who are clean in their own eyes
But are not washed of their filth.
There are those — how lofty are their eyes,
How high their eyelids lift!

(Proverbs 30:12-13)



- Proverbs 30:12-13 (ESV) 12 There are those who are clean in their own eyes but are not washed of their filth. 13 There are those—how lofty are their eyes, how high their eyelids lift!

My Own Eyes

Do I think more highly of myself
than I ought to think?



- Do I think more highly of myself than I ought to think?
 - This passage indicates that I do. (everyone among you)
- Do you see yourself as intelligent?
 - To what degree?
 - Smarter than others? Smarter than most?
 - Less intelligent?
- Because of your training?
 - Engineer? Medical Dr.?
 - Dr.: Knows more about human body - education, experience, training
- Experience: older people know more than younger people?

My Own Eyes

**Do I think more highly of myself
than I ought to think?**



- Is it okay to know that I know things others don't?
- This is not really the issue... it's not merely about knowledge, etc.
 - It's really about how I see myself: a sense of superiority over others, even God.

My Own Eyes

Do I think more highly of myself
than I ought to think?



- What happens when I think too highly of myself?
 - Warnings from Proverbs
 - I don't fear God, and so continue to do evil (3:7) (Disobey God)
 - I don't listen to advise (12:15) from God or others.
 - I don't recognize my sin (30:12)

My Own Eyes

Do I think more highly of myself
than I ought to think?



- Conclusions from the Text (Romans 12:3-8)

- Paul goes on to speak of there being one body, many members, and we are to use our God-given gifts
- Two dangers
 - I exalt myself above my brethren
 - I fail to use God's gift among my brethren
 - Both of these are the result of arrogant selfishness
 - They are the indicators of immaturity in our faith
 - Is this the mind of a slave of God?

My Own Eyes

Do I think more highly of myself
than I ought to think?



- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
 - Overestimating my importance in the Kingdom and Congregation
 - Comparison with others... I win
 - Underestimating my importance in the Kingdom and Congregation
 - Comparison with others... I'm unnecessary
 - False humility
 - Same result! Destruction of body.

My Own Eyes

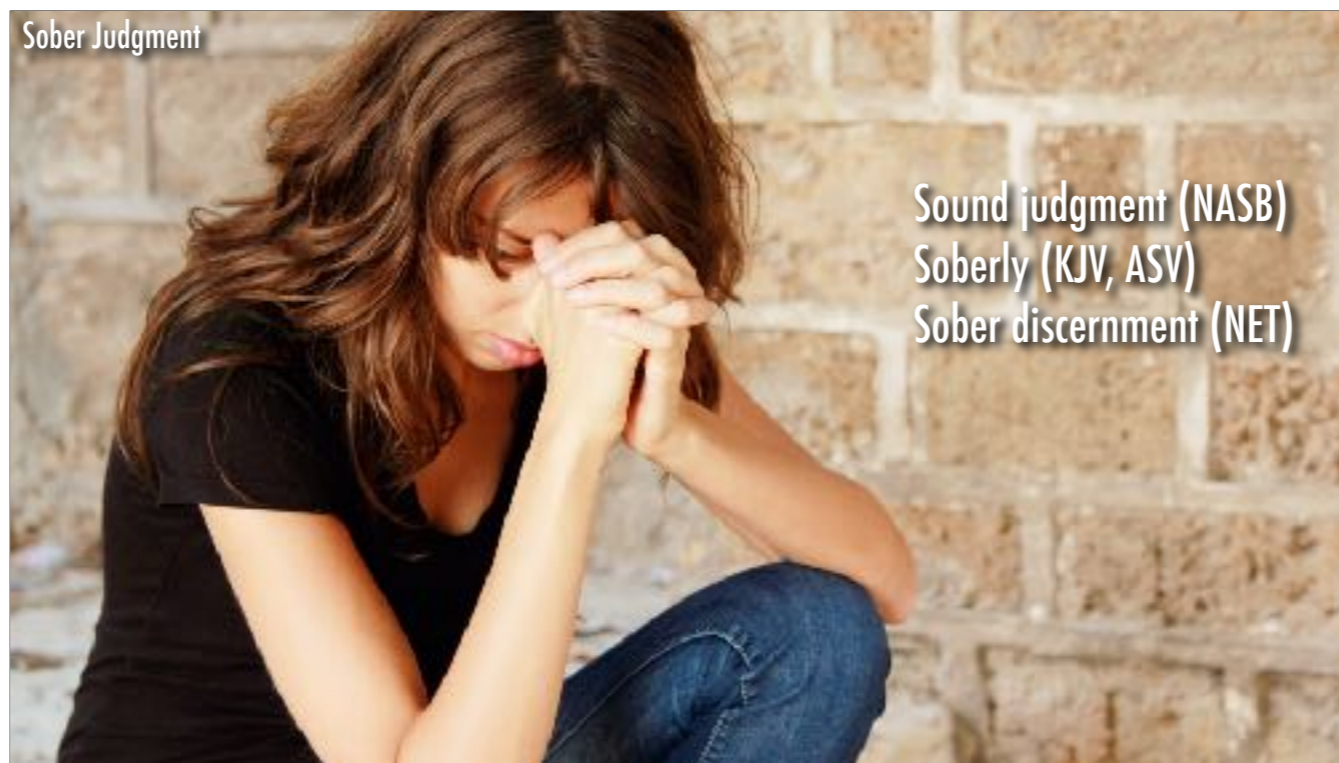
**Do I think more highly of myself
than I ought to think?**



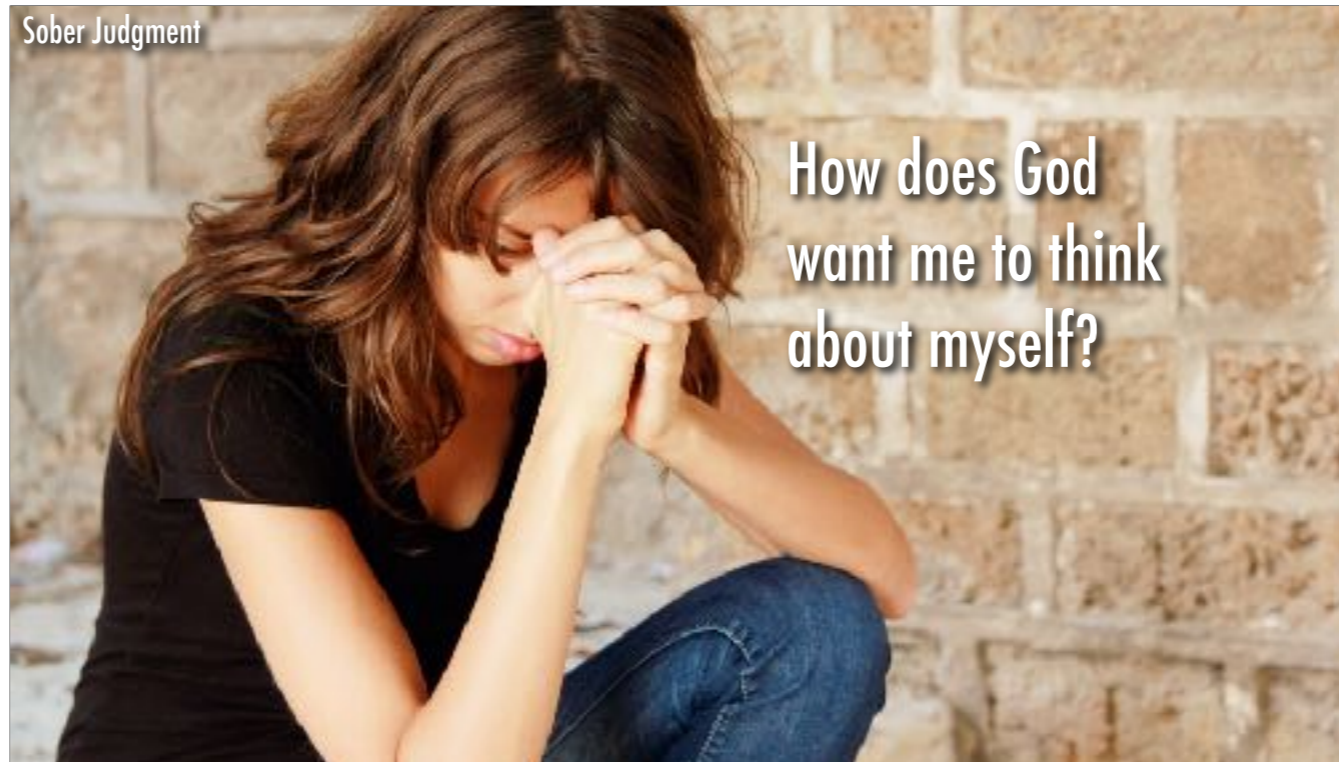
- Romans 12:3: each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned
- Romans 12:6: having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us
- 1 Cor. 12:18: God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose
- 1 Cor. 12:24: But God composed the body



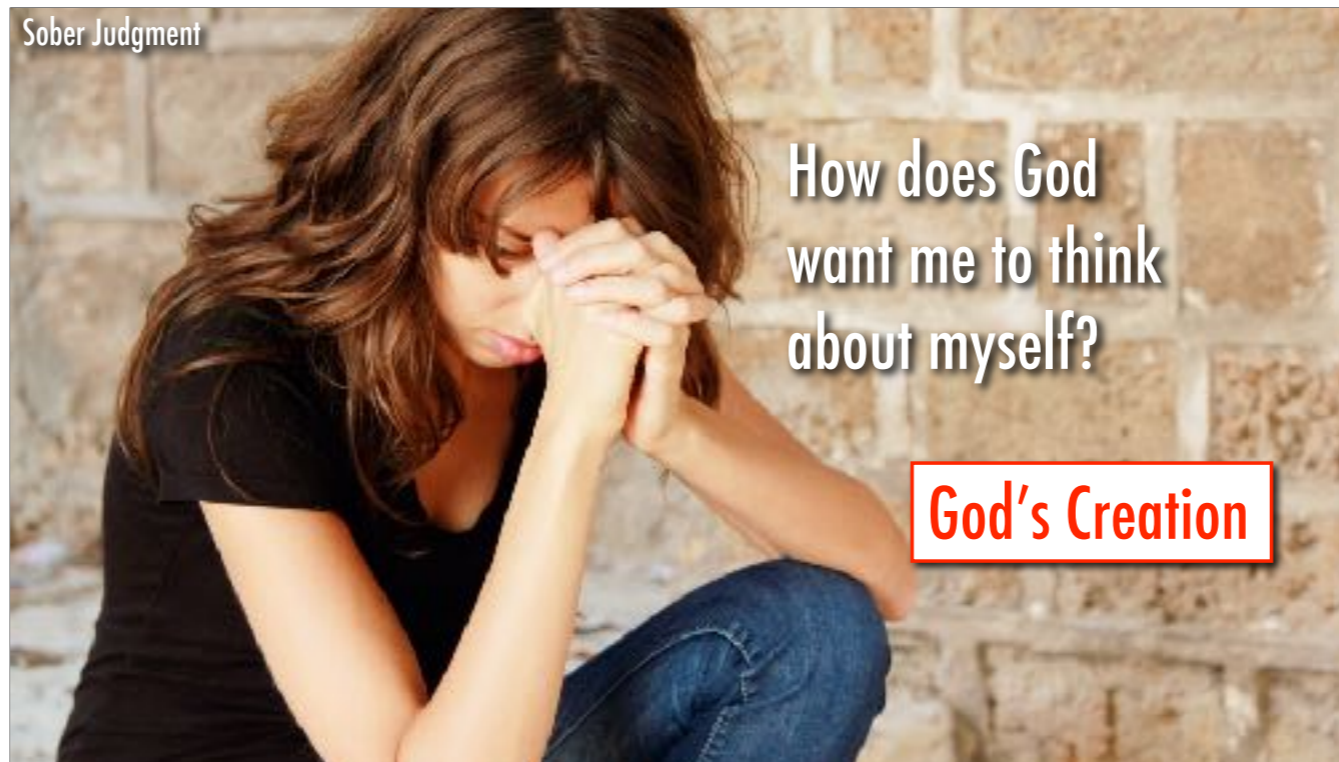
- Think With Sober Judgment



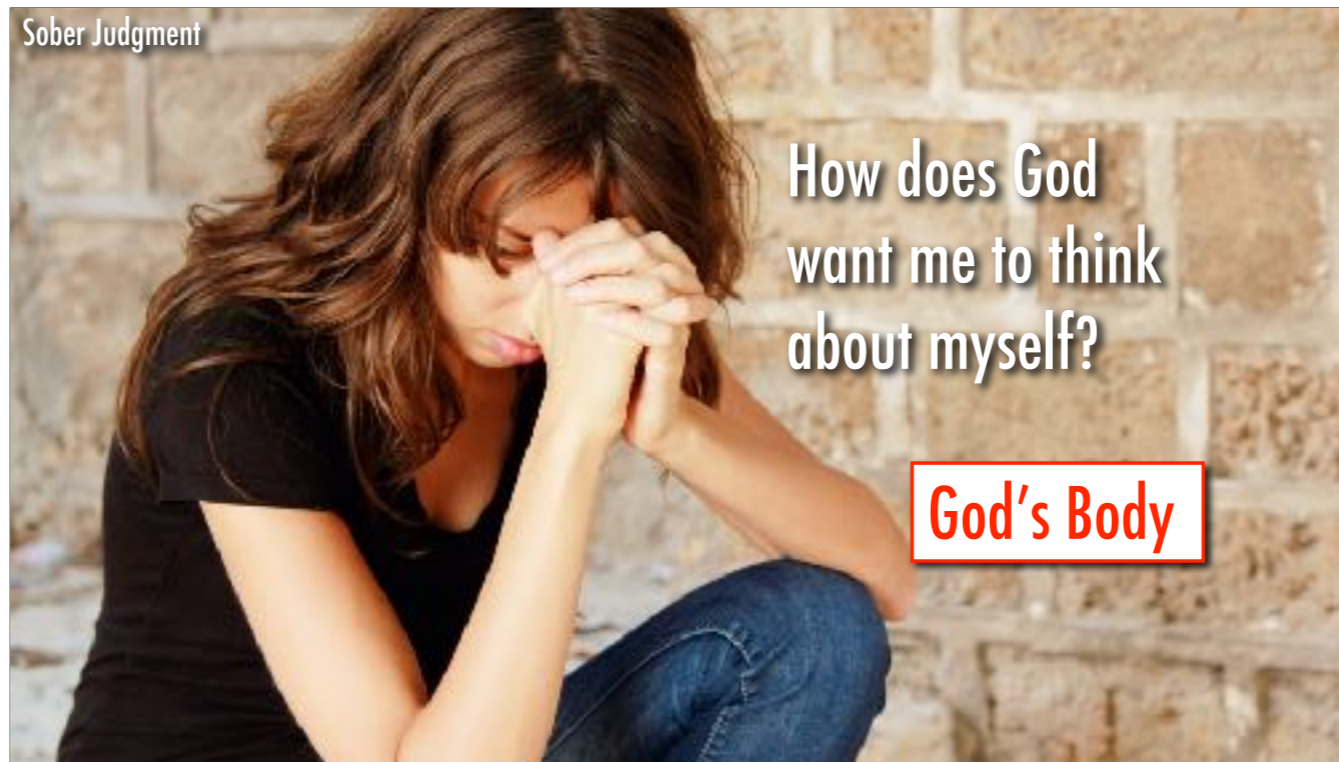
- Sober Judgment
 - NASB: sound judgment
 - KJV, ASV: soberly
 - NET: sober discernment
- Lexicons: right mind, sane; discreet, self-disciplined, self-controlled



- How does God want me to think about myself?
 - v. 3: each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
 - Note again: each!
 - We all need this reminder, and change.



- Recognize God's Creation
 - Psalms 139:14 (ESV) 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well



- Recognize God's Body
 - measure of faith
 - 1 Corinthians 12:13 (ESV) 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.



- Recognize God's Gracious Gift (6)
 - assigned = divided, apportioned
 - What is my gift???
- It's not about me at all.



- It's not about me at all. (my own eyes)
- It's seeing all that God has done for me: Honor Him and Fear Him
- It's understanding that God want's me to use gifts He has given for others: help them to grow too.



- Who do you choose to be? How will you think of yourself?
 - A “disciple” that thinks of one’s self first?
 - Are you wise in your own eyes?
 - Or a disciple who is poor in Spirit and serves God and brethren zealously?
 - Beware of the danger of changing as time goes by (Gideon, Saul): serving is always serving.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Think with Sober Judgement

Romans 12:3

Synopsis: Paul's instructions for our transformation begins with how we think of ourselves. Too often we think too highly of ourselves and so become selfish and useless to our God. When we think with sober judgment, we recognize that all that we are and all that we have are from God and we must use them to His glory. Thanks for Darrel Yontz ideas.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”