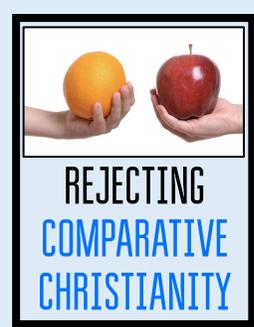


# *Higher Ground*

**KEEPING A SPIRITUAL FOCUS IN THIS MATERIAL WORLD**





# What is “Comparative Christianity”?

- **Defined**

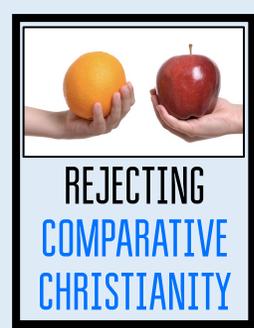
- Individuals

**Comparing/judging based on non-spiritual or superficial issues; personal convictions/opinions.**

**(ROMANS 14:3, 4)**

- Churches

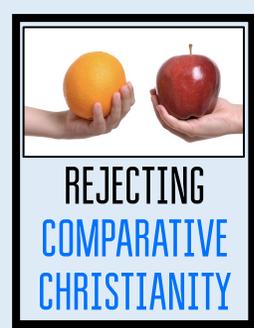
**Comparing/judging based on non-spiritual, superficial issues, or merely the differences between congregations.**



# What is “Comparative Christianity”?

- A Look Around, Rather Than Looking UP
  - As A Standard of Measure/Acceptability
  - To Make Judgments on Others/Self

**MATTHEW 5:21-28**



# When We Compare:

- We Are Not Wise

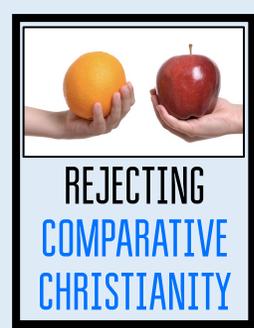
2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 10:12

- Because it Is the Wrong Standard

**ACTS 1:22, 23; 2<sup>ND</sup> COR. 12:12; ROM. 14:4**

- Because It Is Arbitrary

**ROMANS 14:6**



# When We Compare:

- We Trust in Self Too Much

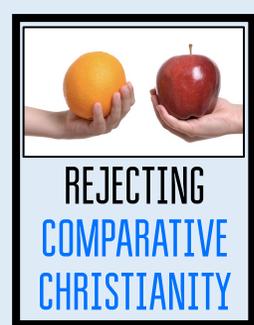
Luke 18:9-14

- Our Judgment Pitted Against God's

**LUKE 18:14**

- Our Judgment: Clouded by Desires

**ROMANS 14**



# When We Compare:

- We Become the Standard

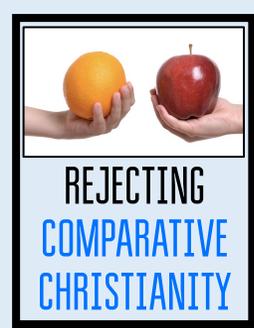
John 7:45-47

- The Basis for All Judgments

**v. 47; ACTS 5:39**

- We Become the Preeminent Ones

**3<sup>RD</sup> JOHN 1:9, 10; COL. 1:18**



# When We Compare:

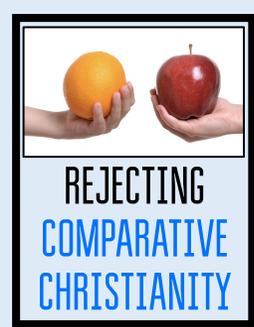
- Partiality is the Result

- Unfair Exclusions

**GALATIANS 2:11-16**

- Unequal Treatment of Our Brethren

**JAMES 2:1-4**



# If We Must Compare:

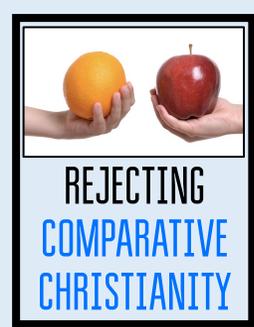
- Compare Self To Christ Alone

- The Only Perfect Example

**HEBREWS 4:15**

- Our Pattern, Our Aim

**EPHESIANS 4:11-15**



# If We Must Compare:

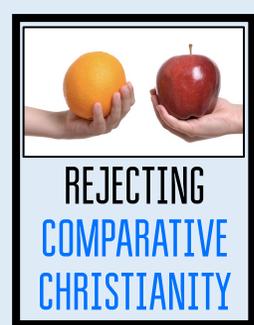
- Compare Self To Those God Approved

- Worthy Examples

- JOB 1:6; EZEK. 14:14; GEN. 6:5, 9, 11**

- To Be Imitated

- 1<sup>ST</sup> COR. 11:1; PHILIPPIANS 3:17**



# If We Must Compare:

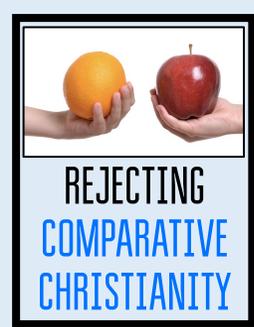
- Compare Self To Those God Condemned

- Learn to NOT Follow/Imitate!

**1<sup>ST</sup> CORINTHIANS 10:6-11**

- But Let's Be Careful When We Compare!

**2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY 2:15**



# If We Must Compare:

- Compare Self To Your Old Self

- New vs. Old

**EPH. 4:22-24; ROM. 6:4; 2<sup>ND</sup> COR. 5:17**

- Am I Better? Stronger? More Mature?

**EPH. 4:14; 1<sup>ST</sup> COR. 14:20; 2<sup>ND</sup> PET. 3:18**

