

Civil, Moral and Spiritual Judgments

*One is never allowed to judge the nature of another person's spiritual life, for only the Lord knows this. But one is allowed to judge the nature of another person's civil and moral life.
(see Arcana Coelestia 2284:4; Conjugal Love 523)*

Do your best to mark the following statements according to whether you think they reflect a **civil**, **moral**, or **spiritual** judgment. *(Please note that answers may vary.)*

- ◆ A *civil* judgment looks at whether or not a person obeys the laws of the country and local community.
- ◆ A *moral* judgment relates to whether or not a person does what is good and acts with charity toward the neighbor.
- ◆ A *spiritual* judgment is about a person's spiritual state, focusing on his internal motivation, whether or not he will be saved, or his relationship with the Lord.

Compare your answers with those of one or more people and discuss any differences.

| # | Civil | Moral | Spiritual | Judgment Calls |
|----|-------|-------|-----------|--|
| 1 | | | | "He did that on purpose!" |
| 2 | | | | "She is really acting like a brat." |
| 3 | | | | "He got paid even though he didn't do hardly any of the job that he promised to do." |
| 4 | | | | "You let the evil spirits talk you into doing what you did." |
| 5 | | | | "I think you're driving too fast." |
| 6 | | | | "You're a bad boy." |
| 7 | | | | "That was an inconsiderate thing to say." |
| 8 | | | | "She is just thinking of herself and her own needs. She doesn't care about us at all." |
| 9 | | | | "You can't go around telling people that 'Joe's Ice Cream' sells food with maggots in it." |
| 10 | | | | "That sounded like a smart-mouthed comment to me." |