

MY VISION OF THE SYSTEM

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In this piece, William Tipton Sr. outlines his vision of the system, discussing the tendency of social media users, judges, and district attorneys to rush to judgment. He warns that such an attitude in light of accusations can ruin a person's reputation.

Many people today are quick to condemn others when they hear or see an accusation, even if proof is lacking. Social media lights up like an electrical storm, filled with hateful and vitriolic comments and horrific threats – sometimes including bodily harm and death toward the accused. Even some professional journalists prejudge before getting all the facts.

Verifying information appears to be less important than being the first to publish and take advantage of sensationalism. Society today is unhinged and highly polarized – politically, religiously, racially, and in other ways.

Emotions erupt like dynamite, set off by the slightest provocation. A social media storm explodes before any sources are vetted or corroborated. Often, when facts come to light debunking the charges as false, a half-hearted retraction may be made. But all too often, the trolls simply slip away under their bridges until the next scandal.

WHY IS A “RUSH TO JUDGMENT” becoming the norm? WHY is EVERYONE so quick to condemn based ONLY on accusations with unsubstantiated evidence?

Wide admonitions against being quick to judge are expressed in the Bible, where WE ARE URGED TO “let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”¹ Can you imagine how quiet social media, courts, DA’s and everyone might become if everyone practiced that wisdom?

Too many are ready to condemn those on the opposing side of their favorite argument, whether their bias is political, religious, racial, etc. We are told to “do no injustice in judgment.”² Whether showing partiality to the poor or the mighty. This goes for our judges/DAs/the courts too, not only our media.

Those who are quick to express opinions on social media, judges and DAs might want to consider this. Social media participants are quick to join in and pile on before facts are presented, and to express either their defense or condemnation depending on their partiality and partisanship, adding to the discord.

Don’t we want those who judge to be appointed and judge with discernment, not perverting justice or showing partiality (or favoritism) but following what is altogether just? Too many in social and news media set themselves up as judges, and sometimes show extreme prejudice. Weren’t we taught to not go hastily to court; for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor has put you to shame?³ Debate

¹ James 1:19.

² Leviticus 19:15.

³ See Proverbs 25:8.

your case with your neighbor himself, and do not disclose the secret to another;⁴ lest he who hears it expose your shame and your reputation be ruined.⁵ One who does so loses credibility, and indeed, professional reputations have been ruined by rash litigation and accusations alike.

We can't control what others say or do, but we can control ourselves. Not everyone is guilty, so don't rush to judgment. This is for judges, DAs, social media, and all who cares.

⁴ *Proverbs 25:9.*

⁵ *Proverbs 25:10.*