

“Of Specks and Logs” Matthew 7:1-5

Pastor Art Hunt

June 11-12, 2016

The Big-Picture Truth: Condemnation doesn't help; it harms.

Jesus' Directive: Don't offer correction with the wrong attitude.

*“Don't judge, and you won't be judged yourself. ²You'll be judged, you see, by the judgment you use to judge others! You'll be measured by the measuring-rod you use to measure others!
³Why do you stare at the speck of dust in your neighbor's eye, but ignore the plank in your own?
⁴How can you say to your neighbor, “Here – let me get that speck of dust out of your eye,” when you've got the plank in your own? ⁵You're just play-acting! First take the plank out of your own eye, and then you'll see clearly enough to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.
Matthew 5:1-5 (N. T. Wright)*

“Judge” = *krino* = used for legal judgments, but also for forming judgments in general; making a distinction between two or more things

Why Not Offer Correction with the Wrong Attitude?

- Condemnation isn't helpful for either the one who condemns or the one being condemned.

*Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.
Galatians 6:1 (English Standard Version)*

Application Tips:

- Wait, pray and prepare until your heart and mind are ready to speak redemptively—in love, without condemnation.
- Ask a more mature believer to help you talk with the person.
- Condemnation will usually comes right back at you.

You'll be judged, you see, by the judgment you use to judge others! You'll be measured by the measuring-rod you use to measure others! Matthew 7:2 (N. T. Wright)

Application Tips:

- The next time someone comes down on you, invite the Spirit to help you discern whether they are responding to your condemnation.

- If they are, take the necessary actions of repentance, gaining a clear conscience and making repairs in the relationship.
- Without self-awareness, you won't be able to help someone very effectively.

Why do you stare at the speck of dust in your neighbor's eye, but ignore the plank in your own? ⁴How can you say to your neighbor, "Here – let me get that speck of dust out of your eye," when you've got the plank in your own? You're just play-acting! First take the plank out of your own eye, and then you'll see clearly enough to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye. Matthew 7:3-5 (N. T. Wright)

- **Internet Definition of Self-Awareness:** Self-awareness (or self-knowledge) is about understanding your own needs, desires, failings, habits, and everything else that makes you tick.
- **Biblical Definition:** Becoming increasingly aware of what's really in your heart.

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Psalm 51:6 (ESV)

- "The plank" = Condemnation or a condemning heart

Application Tips:

- Look for three situations, and process what you find with God:
 - Where there is pain
 - Where you are uncomfortable
 - Look for what is producing anger
- Process those situations by asking questions.
 - What's the real battle here?
 - Where does the Spirit want me to go deeper?
 - What's God's invitation in this situation?
- If you can't process on your own, look for a spiritual friend, a discipler, a counselor, or a spiritual director to help you sort through it.