



6: Overcoming Judgmentalism

Scripture, Outline and Notes, and Discussion Questions

Scripture

Matthew 7:1–5 (NIV)

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

³ “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

Notes

What does Jesus really mean?

Does it mean we are just supposed to be tolerant?

Why does Jesus have to say this?

What is Jesus aiming for in us?

Discussion Questions

1. When you hear the word “condemnation” what feelings and memories does this word evoke?
2. Can there be a difference between having a spirit of condemnation and being morally discerning? Why or why not?
3. Recall Bonhoeffer’s words, “Nothing can be more cruel than the leniency which abandons others to their sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe reprimand which calls another Christian in one’s community back from the path of sin.”

Do you think this is true? If so why do people often practice the “cruel leniency” of abandoning others to unfronted problems?

4. Why does Jesus call us to beyond mere tolerance but instead be a person who willingly confronts others in love?
5. Can we lovingly confront someone in a spirit of condemnation? Why or why not?
6. Judgmentalism can be a kind of moral defense mechanism where we look down on others so as to avoid our own sin problem. Looking at the Scripture passage why does Jesus say this self-defeating? Why do you think we still tend to do it?
7. How does Jesus want to help us overcome a condemning spirit?
8. What are practices that might help us become less condemning and more loving advocate to be able to help other people in their problems with sin?
9. How did God speak to you through these passages and the teaching on overcoming anger?