



BUILT DIFFERENT

Sunday, September 29, 2024

TITLE: Plank-Eye Syndrome

TEXT: Matthew 7:1-6

From SHAMED to _____

From BETRAYED to _____

From BLAMED to _____

From HATED to _____

WHAT WENT WRONG?

The #1 Reason People Doubt Christianity: _____

What People with 'No Faith' Think about Christians:

1. Hypocritical (*we don't practice what we preach*)
2. Judgmental (*we _____ those who don't practice what we preach*)
3. Too Involved in Politics (*we want to force others to practice what we preach*)

DIAGNOSING PLANK-EYE SYNDROME

Am I being too JUDGY?

"To Judge" in this context can mean...

- make a selection or preference / take various factors into account before drawing a conclusion about a thing, person, or situation -OR-
- pass judgment on the lives and/or actions of others / find fault, criticize, condemn

Dallas Willard: "_____—giving it and receiving it—is such a large part of 'normal' human existence that we may not even be able to imagine or think what life would be like without it."

TREATING PLANK-EYE SYNDROME

REPEAT AFTER ME

#1. I Am Not God.

Rich Villodas: "When Jesus tells us not to judge, he's letting us know that we are in no position to determine what the final _____ of a person will be. God alone is the righteous judge who will adjudicate."

James 4:11-12 – Don't criticize one another, brothers and sisters. Anyone who defames or judges a fellow believer defames and judges the law. If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

#2. I Am Not Better Than Those Who Sin Differently.

Amy-Jill Levine: "Rather than judging others for the purpose of condemnation, we are better off attending to our own _____."

James 2:10-13 – For whoever keeps the entire law, and yet stumbles at one point, is guilty of breaking it all. For he who said, Do not commit adultery, also said, Do not murder. So if you do not commit adultery, but you murder, you are a lawbreaker.

Speak and act as those who are to be judged by the law of freedom. For judgment is without mercy to the one who has not shown mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

#3. I Must Not Condemn, but I Can and Should Discern.

Scot McKnight: "It's about a _____-awareness and an _____-awareness shaped by a _____-awareness. Jesus urges us to cease being condemners by first examining ourselves."

James 5:19-20 – My brothers and sisters, if any among you strays from the truth, and someone turns him back, let that person know that whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

- Prevent Plank-Eye Syndrome by examining your own heart, extending grace toward others, and leaving the judgment up to God.

GOING DEEPER | Study & Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Christians as a whole have a reputation as being hypocritical and judgmental? Do you think it's deserved? Why or why not?
2. In your own words, what is the difference between the two different ways of "judging?" How can we be sure we're being "discerning" without being "condemning?"
3. Explain how a judgmental heart puts us in the place of God and why that is so dangerous and harmful.
4. What do you think would be an unwritten hierarchy of sins? Which ones are worse than others? Why do we want to rank sins in the first place?
5. What can the extreme example of Jeffery Dahmer tell us about God's grace and our own attitudes towards others?