

“Don’t Push ‘SEND’”

Matthew 7:1-6

Matthew 7:1-2 **“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.”**

Criticizing others makes us feel that we’re better than the person who we’re judging.

“Judging” refers to the way we criticize or condemn. It is fault-finding and being nit-picky.

“Why worry about the speck in your friend’s eye... and you don’t notice the log in your own?”

What’s it going to take to get rid of the log, the blindness, the quick temper or the critical heart in *my* life?

To Keep from Judging Others:

1) We are to know ourselves. We are as human as the next person and stand in just as much need of God's forgiveness.

Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive His approval! ...Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts! (2 Timothy 2:15, 22)

The more difficult part is realizing that I’m a person with a lot of flaws!

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

2) We are not to take over God's position as judge. He alone has the right and ability to judge because He alone has all the facts.

All there is to know about a person is never known. How can we criticize?

Judging others insults God's authority.

Who are you to condemn someone else’s servants? They are responsible to the Lord, so let Him judge whether they are right or wrong. And with the Lord’s help, they will do what is right and will receive His approval. (Romans 14:4)

3) We are "first to cast the beam out of [our] own eye." First we are to get rid of the sin in our own lives; a critical, judgmental spirit.

“First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.”

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24)

a) We’re talking about the way you relate to someone, as to a friend!

b) You struggle with the same thing that you detect in your friend’s life

c) The way to rid yourself of the log in your own eye, the sin in your own life, is through repentance:

- confession of sin in my own life
- entering into a relationship with the Father
- humbly willing to serve Him
- *Then* you’re able to help another person

4) We are to reach out in compassion and understanding to the person who has failed, not in judgment and criticism.

How can you put into practice this idea of withholding judgment or criticism ...in your home, with your family?

God calls you *Chosen! My Child! Redeemed! Special!*