

“How Do I See Others?” (Growth in Grace III)
(Study 5 of “Getting Personal with God: Sonship A” Series)

The Scripture Passage (The Book of Matthew 7:1-5)

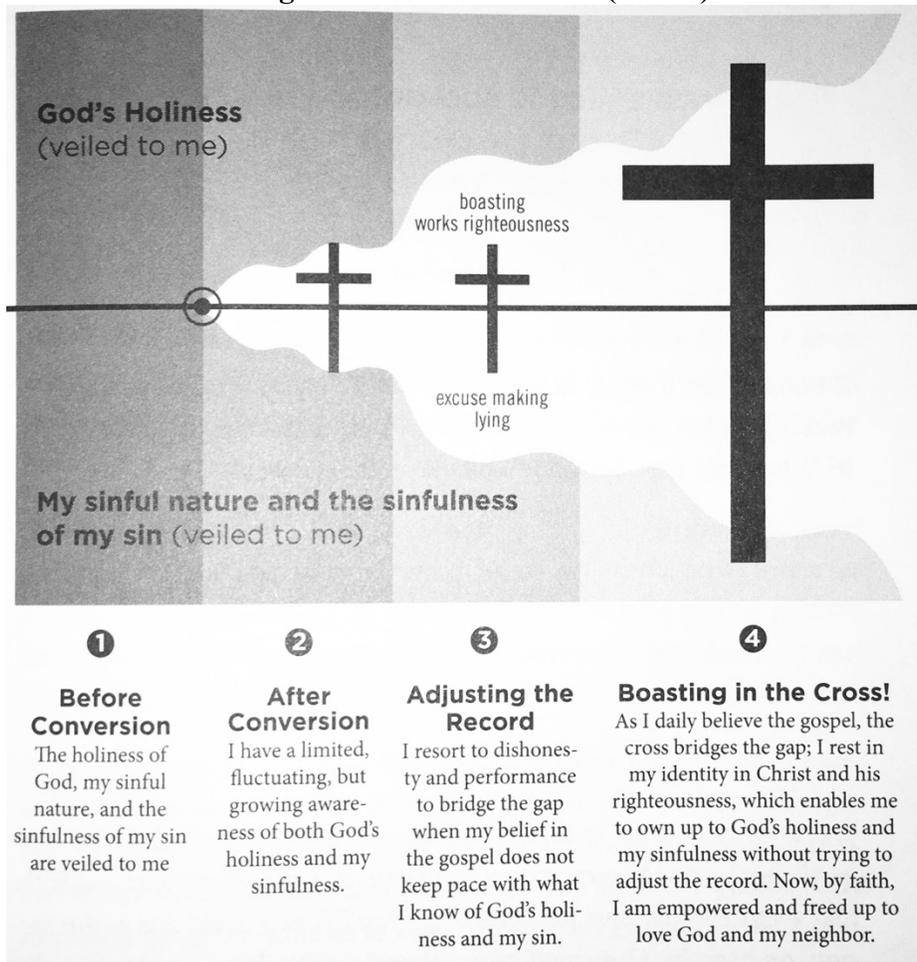
English Standard Version Translation (ESV)

Matthew, Chapter 7:1 “Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. 3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”

New Living Translation (NLT)

Matthew, Chapter 7:1 “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. 2 For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? 4 How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can't see past the log in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! 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.”

Diagram: The Cross Chart (Part 3)



1
Before Conversion
 The holiness of God, my sinful nature, and the sinfulness of my sin are veiled to me

2
After Conversion
 I have a limited, fluctuating, but growing awareness of both God's holiness and my sinfulness.

3
Adjusting the Record
 I resort to dishonesty and performance to bridge the gap when my belief in the gospel does not keep pace with what I know of God's holiness and my sin.

4
Boasting in the Cross!
 As I daily believe the gospel, the cross bridges the gap; I rest in my identity in Christ and his righteousness, which enables me to own up to God's holiness and my sinfulness without trying to adjust the record. Now, by faith, I am empowered and freed up to love God and my neighbor.

**Glossary: God's Holiness can be thought of as God's perfect transcendence (or His bigness)
My Sinful Nature and Sinfulness can be thought of as my being selfishly curved-in-on-myself (or my smallness) that leads me to programs of self-effort, self-righteousness, and self-sufficiency
Works Righteousness can be thought of as performing (minimizing God's holiness/bigness).
Lying and Dishonesty can be thought of as forms of pretending (minimizing my sin/smallness).
Boasting can be thought of as what we rest in and rejoice over.*

Group Prayer

Ideas for Communal and Personal Prayer (Choose 1-2 topics to share about and pray for):

1. What's one *burden* you need prayer for- for relief or healing?
2. What's one *sin* you'd like to (re-)confess to God?
3. What's one *deed* in your life or community you'd like to praise God for?
4. What's one *desire* stirred by this time together with God that you can pray for?