

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

**Opening Questions** *(10 Minutes)*

1. What do people in Charlotte judge others or feel judged about?
2. Describe a time you felt judged by someone. (No need to name names.)
  - What was that moment like for you?

Let’s look at how Jesus speaks into what it means to judge others- and how judgment can look like irritation with others or being discerning about goodness and wisdom...

**Scripture Study** *(10-15 Minutes)*

Read Matthew, Chapter 7, verses 1-5 (first in the ESV, then the NLT)

1. Be quiet for 30 seconds. Think or write. Now what are your first impressions?
  - What’s your emotional, gut-reaction?
  - Ask a question you have (or can think of).
  - Volunteer a thought or comment- about a verse or the whole passage.
2. How does Jesus address the harm of “being judgmental”?
  - What behaviors or characteristics do you find especially irritating?
  - When you’re annoyed, what do you wish you could do, or wish you didn’t do?
  - What happens emotionally or spiritually to other people when we correct their “speck” out of a place self-ignorance or pride (“our log”)?
3. How does Jesus promote the healing power of honesty- about ourselves and others?
  - What’s an example of what it looks like to see our own faults as if they were a log and see other’s faults as if they were a speck?
  - Think of a recent disagreement. What would it have looked like to engage your anger or their criticism with a healthy self-awareness?

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

Matthew, Chapter 7- English Standard Version Translation (ESV)

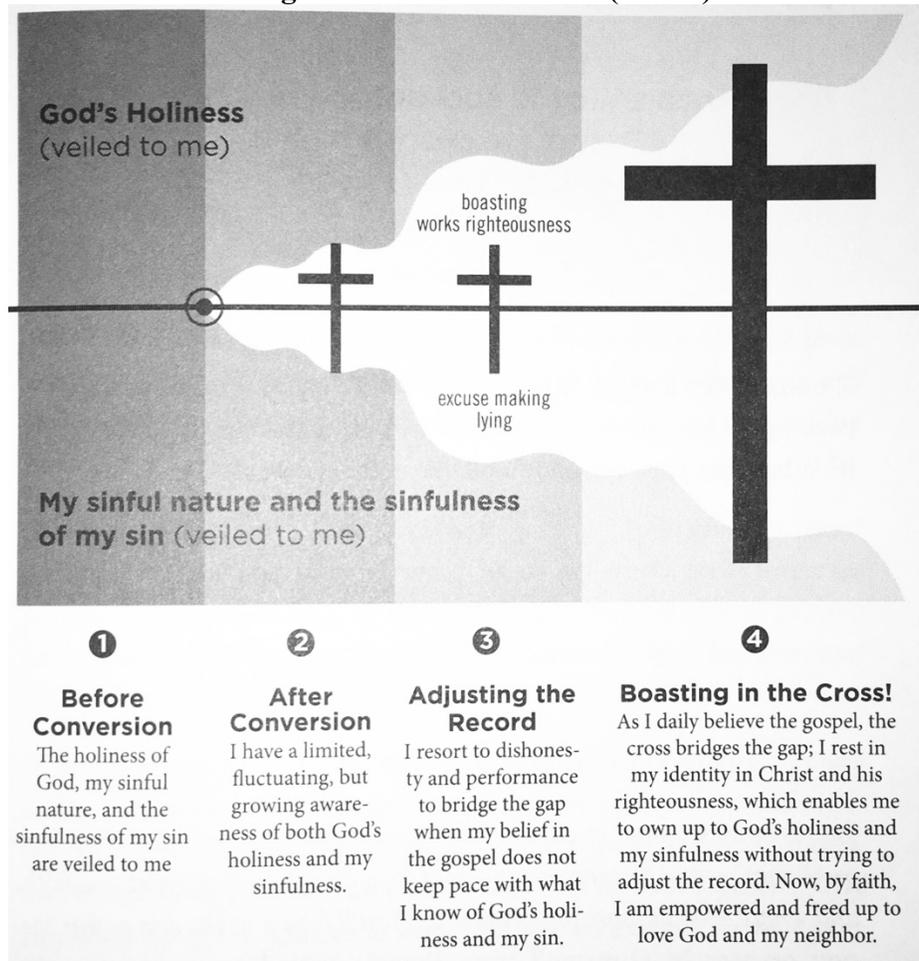
1 “Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. 3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let 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.”

Matthew, Chapter 7- New Living Translation (NLT)

“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.”

**Group Discussion (25 minutes)**

**Diagram: The Cross Chart (Part 3)**



*\*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.*

1. Look over "The Cross Chart (Part 3)" above. Ask for two volunteers (one to read aloud #1-4 on the diagram, and the other to read aloud the glossary of terms).

What are your initial thoughts or questions about this version of the Cross Chart?

- For most, this is your 3rd time seeing this diagram. How does it compare?

2. Remember those specific issues or people you can feel judgmental about in Scripture Question 2. Why do you think you get judgmental about those things or people?

3. Look again at the above diagram and terms. How do the reasons we judge others reflect a small view of *our own sinfulness*?

- Think of a recent time you fudged the truth with someone. Why did you do that?

- How does a bigger view of your own sin affect you when you're feeling judgmental? (Think about that annoying issue or "awful" person or part of you.)
4. Look once more at the above diagram and terms. How do the reasons we judge others reflect a small view of *God's holiness*?
- Think of a recent time you bragged about yourself or got defensive.
  - How does a bigger view of God's holiness affect you when you're feeling judgmental? (Think about that annoying issue or "awful" person or part of you.)
5. Ask for a volunteer to read aloud the following quote, slowly and two-times.  
*"There's something in God's grace [His one-way, unconditional love] to offend everyone except the person who needs it at the time."* (Paul Zahl)
- What does this quote feel like to believe about God when you feel judgy?
  - What does this quote feel like to believe about God when you feel judged?

### **Group Prayer (15 Minutes)**

Ideas for communal and personal prayer

- "Share for yourself, and pray for the person sitting at 9 o'clock from you"
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?