

Sermon on the Mount  
Christian Grace – Part 1  
Matthew 7:1-6

Relativism is the belief that concepts such as right and wrong, goodness and badness, or truth and falsehood are not absolute but change from culture to culture and situation to situation. This worldview is the prevailing one in our culture today and explains why Matthew 7:1 is perhaps the most quoted verse in our culture today. If John 3:16 is the most memorized verse by church people, Matthew 7:1, “Judge not that you be not judged,” is perhaps the most memorized verse by the culture.

1. Grace keeps us from improperly judging others.
2. Grace keeps us looking inward with humility.
3. Grace keeps us moving the gospel forward.

When we live with grace and humility and treat the gospel with the respect it deserves, we will find blessing from the Father who is generous and ready to give good things to those who ask. The bottom line is that we are all sinners in need of a Savior. God has extended the offer of salvation with grace and intentionality. If we have been the recipients of that grace, then we must do the same.

#### Reflection

Is it inherently wrong to make judgments? Think about the people you know. Are you critical of those closest to you? Do you have a critical spirit? Is your overall disposition often overshadowed by negativity? When was the last time you asked God to do a work in your heart with regard to a bad attitude about another person? Are there specks in your eyes that you need to ask God to remove? Do you think it might be better for everyone to trust that if God can remove specks from your eyes that He can also remove planks from the eyes of others? How do we find a balance between confronting sin and being hyper-critical? Are there steps that you can take to reconcile with those whom you have wrongly or harshly judged? How do you offer forgiveness to those who have harshly or wrongly judged you?