

**Rockford Reformed Church**  
**Matthew 7:1-6 - “Critical Surgery”**  
7/8/18 – Pastor Tim Meendering

**Questions for family/small group discussions:**

When you read Philippians 3:2, 1 John 4:1, and John 7:24, what do these texts suggest about whether and how we are to judge and discriminate?

**Two reasons why we are not to condemn others or be judgmental:**

**1. So that you will not be \_\_\_\_\_ in the same way.**

a. What do Matthew 7:1-2, 5:7, and 6:14-15 say about what it takes for us to extend mercy and forgiveness rather than judgment?

b. How would you do before our all-knowing God if he were to extend love, mercy, and forgiveness to you based on how you extend the same to others?

**2. It’s \_\_\_\_\_!**

a. When you consider the crazy analogy that Jesus uses in Matthew 7:3-4, what does the plank represent? What do we lose sight of while we appear to have amazing insight for others? What does this personal blindness reveal about our own hearts?

b. What does the story of David in 2 Samuel 12:1-7 reveal about our capacity for being oblivious to our own sin? And what is most valuable when we are living blind to our sin?

c. What does our criticism of others reveal about the kind of righteousness that we are trusting in?

d. Read Matt. 7:5. How do we get a “planectomy” and keep the plank from developing again? What role does the self-righteousness and plank play as it relates to our relationship to our Father? What do we need to continuously celebrate and remember about God in order to stay plank-free?

e. How does daily gospel-nourishment change the way we relate to others?

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