

THE SPARK OF UNDERSTANDING

Text: Matthew 7:1-2

It has now become America's pastime to pass judgment on anyone and everyone who doesn't adhere to the rigid new morality.

Being judgmental simply means that we make it a habit to find fault — usually in nit-picking manner — with another individual or group of individuals.

We tend to make snap judgments about others, based on nothing more than our misperceptions and preconceived ideas ... and these snap judgments cause us to look down on others unfairly

1. We don't _____ enough to pass judgment.

Part of the problem is that Americans today think they have to have an opinion on everything. The truth is, we *don't* have to have an opinion on everything.

2. We aren't _____ enough to pass judgment.

When you're tempted to judge another, make it a point to remind yourself: I'm not nearly as objective as I think I am.

3. We're not _____ enough to pass judgment Ref: John 8:4-7

None of us are qualified to sit in the judgment seat, because none of us are without sin. Ref: James 4:12; Romans 14:10

On that day when are called to give an account, you can be sure that there is one answer that will not be acceptable. It's the answer that begins with, "At least I never..." Ref: 2nd Cor. 5:10

Three Keys to Break the Judgmental Cycle

1. Take an attitude of _____ Ref. Romans 12:3

Sometimes we need to put ourselves in our place. None of us have the right to throw the first stone.

2. Take an attitude of _____. Ref: Hebrews 13:3

3. Take an attitude of g_____. Ref: Eph. 4:32

Here's what I'm asking you to do:

Show the same mercy to others that God has shown to you.

Offer to others the same second chance that God has offered to you.

Extend to others the same benefit of the doubt that you want God to extend to you.

God has poured out his grace upon you; you can now pour out his grace upon others.

Rather than assuming the worst in others, our challenge is to think the best of others. You ignite the spark of understanding when you choose to see others in the best possible light.

