



# the credibility gap

## WEEK 4 - Judgement vs. Grace

### OVERVIEW

Despite the fact that judgementalism has obviously been a problem in the Church since the very beginning, it is clear we still have not mastered the grace Jesus taught us to show one another. As a result, many have found themselves condemned by Christians, often out of what seems like a wildly unbalanced moral compass (i.e. condemning certain sins while completely ignoring others). If we want to reach those for whom the Church has left a bad taste in their mouth, we can't keep holding them at arm's length until they act the way we want. Instead, we must commit ourselves to a lifestyle of grace and mercy, inviting *everyone* in to experience the transforming love of Jesus.

*Do not judge others, and you will not be judged.. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.*

Matthew 7:1-2

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever felt judged? Have you ever been extended grace? How would you compare and contrast these two experiences?
2. Tim mentions that having a "well-calibrated moral compass" is key to beginning to close the credibility gap. Why do you think that is?
3. Read Matthew 7:1-5. If you cannot see because of a log in your own eye, how do you get rid of it? Or, how do you calibrate (or re-calibrate) your moral compass?
4. Why is judgement harmful if it is not spoken aloud, but just in your mind?
5. Romans 2:1-4 says that we should not judge others. When we see behavior that is sinful, what are we called to do? What is our role and what is the role of the Holy Spirit?
6. Examine how you personally arrive at truth. Do you form an opinion based on proven facts or assumptions? Do you seek guidance from scripture and the Holy Spirit?
7. Name one way you could show someone that God's grace is real (refer to Micah 6:8).

### RESOURCES

[gracechurch.us](http://gracechurch.us)