

Takes One To Know One
(Getting The Log Out Of Your Own Eye)
Romans 2:1-2, Matthew 7:1-5, 2 Samuel 12:1-7

Key Point: *Two people are likely to be hypercritical of one another or have personality conflicts even when there is no specific issue between them because they are seeing their own sin in another person. A person may ignore paying attention to one's own sin by being hypercritical (intolerantly critical) of another person for the same sin for which the person is guilty of in practice or in heart. Sometimes, it may be that one has the same sinful attitude but practices a different action which makes it hard for one to see that quality within oneself. (Because you are looking at the action of the person but not connecting it to the attitude of your heart you are hypercritical of that person's action, not realizing that you share the same attitude. There are other times the person has the same sinful actions as you, but you have been ignoring those actions in your own life while focusing intently on that person's sinful actions and being hypercritical of that person's sinful actions.) This is more properly understood as detection and rejection rather than projection. One detects one's own weakness in another and is intolerant of it to the degree to which one excuses it in one's own life (Romans 2:1-2, Matthew 7:1-5 and 2 Samuel 12:1-7).*

- A. Generally, this results in you detecting your sin in another person and rejecting that person according to that sin, instead of dealing with that sin in your own life (Romans 2:1-3).
- B. When you find that you can't have peace in a circumstance until a person changes some attitude, word or action, you may be detecting something in them that you have not been paying attention to in yourself (Matthew 7:1-5).
- C. The more bothered you are about another's sin (where you are unloving in thoughts, words or actions or lack peace) the more you may be detecting something that you have not been dealing with in your life (2 Samuel 12:1-7).
- D. This helps us understand why some relationships in a family are more difficult than others. There is hypercriticism involved in the lives of both parties. Likewise, this helps us understand why some relationships in any group are more difficult than others. Those persons which we find hard to love may be exposing areas of our lives that are hard for us to face in ourselves. Knowing what particularly gripes us about someone else helps us to understand the weaknesses we have in our own heart (2 Samuel 12:1-7, Matthew 7:1-5, and Romans 2:1-3).
- E. This principle helps us understand why (all other things being equal) one child in the family is rebellious while other children in the same family are not. That one child may strongly exhibit the same weakness as one of the parents and be rejected hypercritically by that parent, thus fomenting rebellion (2 Samuel 12:1-7, Matthew 7:1-5, and Romans 2:1-3).

(Insights adapted from The Heart of Man and The Mental Disorders by Rich Thomson)

Key Point: *The Practice of Genuine Repentance (Psalm 139:23-24, Philipians 3:14-15, 2Corinthians 7:10, Proverbs 28:13-14, Romans 12:2, Colossians 3:1-17, 1John 3:1-3) From these passages we can glean some principles on how to walk in genuine repentance as God empowers us to do so resulting in the getting the log out of our own eye.*

- A. Ask God to help you identify where you have been thinking, speaking, or acting in sin towards God in particular situations.
- B. Ask God to help you identify where you have been thinking, speaking, or acting in sin towards others in particular situations.
- C. Ask God to help you identify where you have been thinking, speaking, or acting in sin in response to unfavorable or difficult circumstances.
- D. Ask God to help you identify what you want or desire that you cannot control getting from God, others, or circumstances that have become the selfish ambitions of your life leading to complications in your life.
- E. As these things are revealed, allow yourself time to grieve over the distance and damage your sin has caused between you, God and others.
- F. Confess and repent of lusting after those wants or desires you cannot control getting from God, others, or circumstances.
- G. Confess and repent of ungodly thoughts, words, or actions towards God, others, and circumstances.
- H. Identify the godly thoughts, words, actions, or desires that God is seeking to lead you to develop in replacement of the ungodly ones.
- I. Lay out a daily or weekly schedule of specific things you are to think, desire, communicate, behave, relate, and serve and discipline yourself to practice each task faithfully and consistently apart from your feelings.
- J. Identify various ways you can show thanks to God for what He is allowing in your life.
- K. Learn to receive and cultivate hope that comes from trusting God.