

Pastor Shawn Thornton—
Weekend of August 22–23, 2020

Grace-filled Discernment in a Graceless World—Matthew 7:1–6

Part 12 of a sermon series on “The Sermon on the Mount”

As we seek to live by the values of Christ’s Kingdom, we are called to live with grace-filled _____ and warned not to fall into graceless _____.

6 Graceless _____ to _____

(These lead to judgmentalism marked by hypocrisy)

We fall into a graceless, critical spirit when we have an _____ view of ourselves and an _____ view of others.

1. Pharisaical _____

We hold _____ to a standard to which we are not willing to hold _____.

2. _____ or _____ Effect

We see a _____ of someone’s behavior, and we project that same behavior on _____ other _____ of that person’s life.

3. _____

We shame and ostracize someone with _____ of redemption, restoration, or reconciliation.

4. _____

Everyone is either the _____ or the _____.

5. _____ Ethics

Morality is defined by how _____ responds to the way I live rather than morality being defined by how I adhere to an _____.

6. Fundamental _____ Error

We assign our bad behavior to our _____ while we assign the bad behavior of others to their _____.

5 Grace-filled _____ to _____

(These lead to discernment marked by _____)

We live with a grace-filled, discerning spirit when we have an accurate view of _____, _____, and _____.

1. _____

Based on a clear understanding of _____ before God first, then others.

2. _____

Based on a healthy _____ - _____ from God first, then others.

3. _____

Based on what God _____, not on what others _____.

4. _____

Based on how _____ has treated me, not how _____ have treated me.

5. _____

Based on how much God is _____ me, not on how much others _____ to _____.

Do you carry yourself with a _____, critical spirit, or do you carry yourself with a _____ - _____, discerning spirit?

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As we seek to live by the values of Christ’s Kingdom, we are called to live with grace-filled discernment and warned not to fall into graceless judgmentalism.

6 Graceless Pitfalls to Avoid

(These lead to judgmentalism marked by hypocrisy)

We fall into a graceless, critical spirit when we have an overinflated view of ourselves and an underinflated view of others.

1. Pharisaical Legalism

We hold others to a standard to which we are not willing to hold ourselves.

2. Halo or Horns Effect

We see a glimpse of someone’s behavior, and we project that same behavior on all other areas of that person’s life.

3. Cancel Culture

We shame and ostracize someone with no hope of redemption, restoration, or reconciliation.

4. Critical Theory

Everyone is either the oppressed or the oppressor.

5. Shame Honor Ethics

Morality is defined by how my tribe responds to the way I live rather than morality being defined by how I adhere to an established standard.

6. Fundamental Attribution Error

We assign our bad behavior to our circumstances while we assign the bad behavior of others to their character.

5 Grace-filled Qualities to Cultivate

(These lead to discernment marked by authenticity)

We live with a grace-filled, discerning spirit when we have an accurate view of God, ourselves, and others.

1. Humility

Based on a clear understanding of who I am before God first, then others.

2. Integrity

Based on a healthy self-awareness from God first, then others.

3. Accountability

Based on what God knows, not on what others see.

4. Mercy

Based on how God has treated me, not how others have treated me.

5. Charity

Based on how much God is changing me, not on how much others need to change.

Do you carry yourself with a graceless, critical spirit, or do you carry yourself with a grace-filled, discerning spirit?