

Here Comes the Judge

In the Grip of Grace - 3

Some people would be quite surprised to learn that the way others view them is not quite as flattering as the way in which they view themselves. But even more people would probably be shocked to discover how God views them!

God is not impressed by the “self-made” man. In fact, regardless of how different we may appear on the outside, we are all the same inside. Everyone of us is in desperate need of God’s mercy and forgiveness. God desires to restore relationships broken by sin, and does so—not by superficially changing external behavior, but rather by changing us from the inside out (Romans 2:28-29).

LOOKING BACK:

1. *Have you ever been surprised to learn that someone’s view of you was quite different from your own? Was your “discovery” a pleasant or painful experience?*

LOOKING DEEP:

Read Romans 2:1-4

1. *How would you characterize the person described in this passage? When was the last time you caught yourself responding to someone in a similar, condescending manner?*
2. *What assumptions do we make about ourselves when we judge another person? About the other person? What are the dangers of comparing ourselves with others?*
3. *Why is it so easy “to pick up the gavel” and judge the sin in others, and not confront the sin in our own lives?*
4. *In what respect are “gross” sinners and “respectable” sinners both guilty of “the same things” (vs 3)?*
5. *Not being judgmental does not mean that we should be unresponsive when someone is “caught” in destructive behavior. What is the difference between judgmentalism and healthy intervention?*

***PRAYER REQUESTS
AND REFLECTIONS***