Removing the Plank

In order for us to help others we MUST RECOGNIZE we need help also - Matt 7:3-5 - " 3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and **pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?** 4 **How can you say** to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when **all the time there is a plank in your own eye?** 5 **YOU HYPOCRITE**, **first** take the plank out of your own eye, and **THEN YOU WILL SEE CLEARLY** to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Question; Do we really check ourselves - Rom 2:19-24 - if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— 21 you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? 24 As it is written: **"God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."**

We must realize we are never a good standard of measure - 2 Cor 10:12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, **they are not wise**.

Any judgement of the world is meaningless including our own - 1 Cor 4:3-5 - 3 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. 4 ***My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent***. **IT IS THE LORD WHO JUDGES ME**. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

Jesus made clear, because of us, we have no right to condemn - John 8:3-11 - 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "**Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery**. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "**IF ANY ONE OF YOU IS WITHOUT SIN, LET HIM BE THE FIRST TO THROW A STONE AT HER."** 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one **condemned you**?" 11 "No one, sir," she said."Then **neither do I condemn you**," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

***Please note: He didn't say, "If anyone has not committed adultery…"**

To truly remove the plank we must…

Know we are Never to do anything based on us! - Phil 2:3 **DO NOTHING OUT OF** selfish ambition or vain conceit, but **in humility** consider others better than yourselves.

Know our purpose is to assess and assist - 1 Thess 5:14-15 - 14 And we urge you, brothers, **warn** those who are idle, **encourage** the timid, **help** the weak, **be patient** with everyone. 15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

Our gentleness must be a noticeable characteristic - Phil 4:4-5 - 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

We must be filled with God's Word and with God's attitude - Col 3:16-17 - 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another **with** all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs **with** gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Armor is not the only clothing we are to wear helping others - Col 3:12-14 - 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves with** compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, **which binds them all together in perfect unity**.

Just remember if I condemn and use the wrong measure, I set myself up - Matt 7:1-2 - "**Do not judge**, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.