Speaking the Truth in Love: Part 2 5.30.10

[1]Judge not, that you be not judged. [2]For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. [3]Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? [4]Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye', when there is the log in your own eye? [5]You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.
(Matthew 7:1-5)

How can we rebuke a fellow Christian in a redemptive way?

1. Believe the best of your brother or sister (*Matt 7:1-2*)

- Jesus does not mean that we do not make any kind of evaluative judgment
  - Jesus encourages some judgments in the context of this passage (*Matt 7:6, 15-20*)
  - What Jesus condemns is harsh and critical judgments that believe the worst of someone
- Believing the best
  - DOES NOT MEAN you ignore evidence or get taken advantage of
  - DOES MEAN you give the benefit of the doubt as long as possible
- What does this look like?
  - Refuse to think only about the faults of your brother or sister
  - Refuse to think you have no responsibility for the sin
  - Refuse to think that change is impossible

2. Take responsibility for your own sin first (*Matt 7:3-5*)

- Jesus forbids arrogant rebuke where you skip over your own sin and focus only on the sin of your brother or sister
- You must be humble and ask what responsibility you share
  - Did your sin create a context for the sin of your brother or sister?
  - Did you respond to the sin of your brother or sister in a sinful way?
- Where can you humbly identify with the sinfulness of your brother or sister?

3. Point out the sin of your brother or sister in a spirit of service (*Matt 7:5*)

- Just because you have a beam in your eye does not mean there is not a speck in the eye of your brother or sister
- Jesus wants to use each of you in the life of the other to make you more like him
- The goal: HELP not HARM