

# FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

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Dear members and friends of FBF,

One of the games we have played in youth group in years past has been to put a post-it note on the participants' foreheads. Each note would bear the name of a person, place, or thing – unknown to the wearer, but which everyone else could read. Then we would either take turns, or simply have the kids mill around asking yes-or-no questions of one another. The first to identify the word on their forehead would win.

The game is just a fun way to get young people to interact with one another, but behind it is a humbling reality. We are often blind to unpleasant traits in ourselves that to others are as plain as day. If you don't believe it, consider how some of the people you live with, work with, and go to church with seem to be amazingly unaware of the logs in their own eyes – this one is so negative, that one is lazy, that other one is such a busybody. Why, you'd be embarrassed to have such glaring deficiencies in character, but it doesn't seem to phase them in the least! The frightening part is to realize that none of us is immune to this same talent for blissful self-ignorance.

Gary Chapman, author of the best-selling *The Five Love Languages*, has counseled hundreds of couples in troubled marriages. Early in the counseling process, he often asks each spouse to write out a list of things they dislike about their partner. They write furiously and freely, he says. Sometimes they ask for more paper. A bit later, he asks each to make a list of his own weaknesses. Most can think of one weakness right away and write it down. But then come the chin-stroking and far-away looks as they try to think of a second. Some never *can* think of another.

Isn't it amazing? Each of us has only one or two faults, but each of us is surrounded by people who have dozens of them! If we think this through a little more, we may come to the realization that there are more log-eyed speck inspectors than we realized – one more at least.

So, of course, we should remind ourselves to grant a wider berth to our log-laden neighbors. We might need some of that grace ourselves when we least expect it – like today for instance. We might also make sure that we are regularly consulting the truthful mirror of God's Word<sup>1</sup> – if we come to it openly, God will gently (and privately) reveal the areas in need of deforestation.

Yours because of His grace,

*Chris*

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<sup>1</sup> James 1:21-26

"Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? 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 7:3-5