We all have some things that get on our nerves and under our skin.

We all have some things that get on our nerves and under our skin. So did Jesus!

Self-Righteousness

...do not be like the hypocrites...

Self-righteous people care more about how they do what they do than why they do what they do.

"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?

Self-righteousness makes us bad at honesty and good at hypocrisy.

Self-righteousness causes us to prioritize being right over being kind.

Self-righteous people love to correct but hate being corrected.

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:

Luke 18:9 NIV

Self-righteous people see people who are different from them as less than them.

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee...

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.

Luke 18:11 NIV

Self-righteous people look down on the sinners who sin differently than they do.

I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

Luke 18:12 NIV

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Luke 18:13 NIV

Grace

Pride

In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God. "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Luke 18:14 NIV

God isn't impressed with our morality, He is moved by our humility.

Those who have freely received grace should also freely give grace.

Grace has always been and will always be scandalous.

We are all sinners.

We are all sinners loved by God.

And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

James 4:6 NIV

Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:8 NIV

Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4:9-10 NIV

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

You never know what may hang in the balance of your decision to admit you need grace.

Religion values commandments over compassion, sin over sinners, and law over grace. Jesus prioritizes you.