

ADDRESS THE MESS

ADDRESS THE MESS, PART 3: ACCEPTING BUT EXPECTING

We've all made messes in our lives. In fact, we know a mess when we see one because we are messes. It's something we all have in common. One misconception is that the Christian life is all about avoiding messes. But that's not true. If you dumb Christianity down to being about avoiding trouble, then your faith will be all about you—the foundation of another mess. Following Christ isn't about *avoiding* something; it's about *becoming* something.

BIG IDEA: *It's okay to come messy. But it's not okay to stay that way.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you narrowly avoided a mess in your life. What helped you avoid it?
2. To what extent is your faith currently defined by the idea that Christianity is about repeatedly making messes and getting in trouble, and repeatedly being forgiven? How do you think that influences the way you view your Heavenly Father?
3. One of our core values at oneChurch.tv is that *It's okay to come messy, but it's not okay to stay that way.* Jesus accepts everyone, but once Jesus comes into your life you can't just keep being the same messy person. ***Everyone is accepted, but everyone is expected to change, because growing people change.*** How difficult is it to manage the tension between acceptance and expectance?



4. *With your Bible or the Bible App, read Galatians 6:1-3 and 7-9.*

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.

Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.
Galatians 6:1-3, 6-9

5. How does Paul manage the tension between acceptance of everyone and expectance for people to become like Jesus in Galatians 6? How does one restore a believer overcome in sin without falling victim or becoming prideful (verses 3-5)?
6. Chris said, "*Jesus and the church loves messy people, but Jesus loves us too much to leave us that way.*" Is it difficult to believe that Jesus loves you, messes and all? Why or why not?
7. *With your Bible or the Bible App, read Philippians 1:3-11.*

ADDRESS THE MESS

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:3-11

8. What might it look like for your love to “abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight”? What do you think it requires to pursue that kind of faith?
9. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being “it couldn’t be worse,” and 10 being “it couldn’t be better,” how would you rate your current prayer life? What, if anything, can you do to change your prayers from requests for behavior medication to requests for transformation of your heart and mind?
10. What is one thing you can do this week to begin to attune your heart to what God is doing in you? How can this group support you and hold you accountable?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Ask God to complete what he has begun in you. This will attune your heart to what God is up to in you. Jesus loves you—even if you’re a mess. But he loves you too much to leave you that way.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:4-6