

COME AS YOU ARE  
NO PERFECT PEOPLE ALLOWED

Authenticity  
Ephesians 3:14-15  
Week 2 January 12, 2020  
Pastor Mike Popovich

Some people are afraid to get close, so we have bought the lie of this world that independence is the way to go.

Deep down, more than anything else, we want to be fully known and fully loved—we want to belong in community.

What if God's new rules were:

Rule #1 There is no condemnation from Me—there's grace through what Christ has done, So no need to fear anyone's judgement.

Rule # 2 No more hiding and pretending. In this community of grace, I want you to learn to stop hiding and pretending so you can experience freedom and life-giving community.

Rule #3 Walk to together with me and others in authentic community, and you will all grow up to be more of what God intended.

NO PERFECT PEOPLE ALLOWED

Perfect means you have done it right every time, never made a mistake, never.

*For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet now God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins.*

Romans 3:23-24 NLT

WE STILL PRETEND

We pretend we are not marked by messages from the past; marked by sinful, hurtful, shameful things we have done. We repeat the broken patterns of our lives or addictions and do not challenge them and they ruin our relationships. So when we pretend we stay stuck.

A NEW FAMILY

God is creating a new family and a new community where the rules are changed.

*So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge.*

Ephesians 3:17a-19a NIV

1. HELP ONE ANOTHER LIVE IN AUTHENTIC TRUTH

Every person who we give access to our lives and every decision we make leaves its message in us.

*Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

John 8:31-32 NIV

As a church we encourage everyone to connect in a small group or a serving team.

2. HEAL ONE ANOTHER THROUGH AUTHENTIC  
CONFESSION

*Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.* James 5:16 NLT

*If we claim that we experience a shared life with him and continue to stumble around in the dark, we're obviously lying through our teeth—we're not living what we claim. But if we walk in the light, God himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin*  
1 John 1:6-7 MSG

God wants to use this church to create a new family for you.