

Messy People

“Truth” without grace is not really truth. And “grace” without truth is not really grace. – Tim Keller

Truth alone judges messy people
Grace alone loves messy people
Jesus saves messy people

John 8:2-6a

...but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?” They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, ...

Truth alone judges messy people

Grace alone loves messy people

but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. John 8:6b

They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. John 8:7-8

When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”

“No, Lord,” she said.

And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.” John 8:9-11

Jesus saves messy people.

The tension of grace and truth.

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:17

“The law which accuses us, and calls for judgment against us, is by the gospel of Christ made to withdraw; its demands are answered, and its clamors silenced, by the blood of Jesus. Our cause is lodged in the gospel court: we are left with Jesus alone, it is with him only that we have now to deal, for to him all judgment is committed ... Let his gospel rule us and it will infallibly save us.” (Matthew Henry’s Commentary, 1991; p.1965)

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

The difference between acceptance and approval.

How are you? What is that like for you?

Now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. Romans 8:1-2