



PART 2: YOU'RE PERFECT JUST THE WAY YOU ARE

Sermon Notes

Text: Matthew 5:43-48, 16:24-26

Intro:

"You're perfect just the way you are" - God never said that!

"God loves you just the way you are, but he refuses to leave you that way. He wants you to be just like Jesus" ~Max Lucado

Matthew 5:43-48

"Perfect" refers to maturity, completeness, wholeness, fulfillment.

Hebrews 2:10

Matthew 5:48 (MSG) "In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you."

"It is natural to wish that God had designed us for a less glorious and less arduous destiny; but then we are wishing not for more love but for less" ~C.S. Lewis

The Challenge to the Gospel:

We are living in "The age of authenticity" which holds the belief that human flourishing happens when every individual is allowed to express themselves freely.

"True authenticity is not asking God and everyone else to embrace your self expression; it's embracing the self-expression of God in the person of Jesus Christ." ~Trevin Wax

In the words of Jesus:

Matthew 16:24-26

The message of Jesus is not "you're perfect just the way you are;" it is "come die with me."

Romans 3:23, John 1:8

The gospel tells us to crucify the person that the world tells us to be true to.

Galatians 2:20

The Clear Statement of the Cross:

"We're far worse than we ever imagined, and far more loved than we could ever dream." ~Tim Keller

Romans 6:23

Conclusion:

2 Corinthians 5:21

The great exchange

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Have you ever made a unfair trade? Did you get the better or worse deal?
2. What is the difference between the two statements below. Is it important to differentiate the two?

“You are perfect just the way you are”

“I love you just the way you are”

Study & Discussion:

1. Discuss the meaning of the word “authenticity.” Do you see this as a cultural value? What are it’s positive implications? What are its negative implications?
2. Read Matthew 5:43-48. Jesus’ command to “be perfect” comes in the context of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus emphasizes a righteousness of the heart, not one of mere actions. In v. 43-47, Jesus gives the example of how to treat enemies. What does this have to do with perfection?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21. What stands out to you in this passage? What does it say about the “exchange” Jesus made with us? What is a “worldly point of view” (v. 16). How should we view people instead? What does it mean to be a new creation?

Application:

1. Read Eugene Peterson’s paraphrase of Matthew 5:48 - “In a word, what I’m saying is, Grow up. You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like

it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”

- How will you practically apply this to your life this week?

Prayer:

1. Pray for the faith required to live out your new identity in Christ.

2. Other Requests

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