

SIN, IMPERFECTION, AND THE GOOD NEWS

Mike Yaconellie writes in his book, *Messy Spirituality* "I Guess I'm Not a Very Good Christian . . . I don't pray enough, I don't read my Bible enough, I don't share my faith enough, I don't love God enough, I'm not committed enough, I'm not spiritual enough"

I lament that I am not a very good Christian. Okay, maybe Christian isn't even the right word; the truth is maybe I am not a very good person. I failed chemistry twice in high school, I cuss a little too much, I don't pray enough, and in fact, sometimes I doubt God even exists.

I wonder sometimes how God can love someone like me.

I would guess that most people could easily list the negatives about themselves. It is easy to think that you don't live up, that you aren't worthy, or even worse, that God might not love you because of what you have done.

Now enter the GOOD NEWS.

John 3:16-17 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

Romans 5:8 *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Genesis 1:27 *So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

Ephesians 2:4-5 *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

THE LIST GOES ON! And on and on!

The illogical, crazy, wonderful, amazing thing about sin and imperfection is that over all of it, God says - YOU ARE MY CHILD. YOU ARE MY CHILD. YOU ARE MY CHILD. YOU with all your flaws and all your failures ARE still and always will be forever and ever and ever MY CHILD.

That's the great claim of humanity. We are children of GOD. Period. End of discussion. Class dismissed. Game over. It's done.

The love of God cleanses all unrighteousness.

- John Parsons
Director of Youth and Family Ministries