

The Spirituality of Imperfection

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Introduction

- Perfectionism is a dangerous state of mind in an imperfect world
- Live in a society where perfectionism is celebrated
 - Teams with Perfect Records
 - Plastic Surgery is a multimillion dollar industry
 - Nor'easters are known as the Perfect Storm
 - Olympic skaters and gymnasts shoot for perfect scores
 - Brothers want to date/marry perfect 10's in spite of our imperfections 😊
 - ****Tend to celebrate the victory and ignore the Struggle***

Imperfection in the Church

- I don't go to church because of the hypocrites there
- The Pastor will buy a new Bentley with the tithes and offering
- These mega churches are too big
- I go to a Non Denominational Church
- That was a good sermon...What did they preach about.... I don't know...what scripture was the basis.....I don't know, but I had a good time running

Jesus Hung Out with Imperfect People

- Disciples
 - Infighting
 - Jockeying for position (James & John)
 - Suspicious of each other
 - Accusatory
 - Impulsive (Peter) Matthew 14:22-35
 - Selfish (James & John) Mark 10:35-45
 - Lazy (Sleeping at the transfiguration)
 - Luke 9:28-33
 - Disloyal (Judas)

Jesus Hung Out with Imperfect People

- Tax Collectors (Luke 19:1-10)
- Adulterers (John 8:1-11)
- Mental Cases (Matthew 12:22-29)

Words denoting Imperfection

- **flaw**
- **blemish**
- **bug**
- **catch**
- **defect**
- **deficiency**
- **deformity**
- **demerit**
- **disfigurement**
- **problem**
- **shortcoming**
- **stain**
- **failing**
- **fault**
- **frailty**
- **glitch**
- **inadequacy**
- **incompleteness**
- **Infirmity**
- **insufficiency**
- **weakness**

We are all Imperfect

- Dirt is dirt
 - Isaiah 64:6 “ Filthy Rags”
- Perfection is shielded by imperfection
 - II Corinthians 4:7 “Treasure in Earthen Vessels”
- Imperfection attracts “grace”
 - II Corinthians 12:7-10 “Thorn In the flesh

Imperfection leading to perfection

- To be perfect is to develop expanding imperfection.
- When one has once fully entered the realm of love, the world - no matter how imperfect - becomes rich and beautiful, it consists solely of opportunities for love.
- **Soren Kierkegaard (1813 - 1855)**

Dealing with imperfection

- “I don’t have a problem with Jesus, it is His followers that turn me off from Christianity”
- God wants us to be Holy because He is Holy, not perfect because He is perfect
- Consistency in your walk strengthened through spiritual disciplines

Perfect Critics

- What drove Jesus' enemies crazy were His criticisms of the “perfect” religious people and His acceptance of the “imperfect” nonreligious people.
- It is easier for perfect people to church than to come to Christ
 - Through our imperfection we understand the need for conversion
- The Triple O Crowd (our of order)

Watch Advice from imperfect people

- The Word became flesh and through theologians became merely words again
– Karl Barth
- Job and his friends advice after the fall
- Listen to advice from those sent by God to help you (II Samuel 12:1-12)

The Culprit of our Imperfection

SIN

- Makes you do what you don't want to do
- Take you to Places that you don't want to go
- Make you stay longer than you want to stay
- Cause you to spend more money than you have

Spirituality of Imperfection will Lead you to:

- Servant Leadership
- Compassion
- Qualified to Minister to others
- Mentor (Move from disciple to apostle)
- Utilize your spiritual gifts
- Seek guidance in prayer

Imperfection can lead us to a perfect desire

- Imperfection can be the beginning of a new direction, a change of course...
- I have been through the fire, and I have been through the flood...I have been shot up, shot at, and shot down...but thanks be to God, I don't look like what I've been through
- The Holy Spirit will help! (Acts 1:8)