

**A Community of Grace
No Perfect People Allowed**

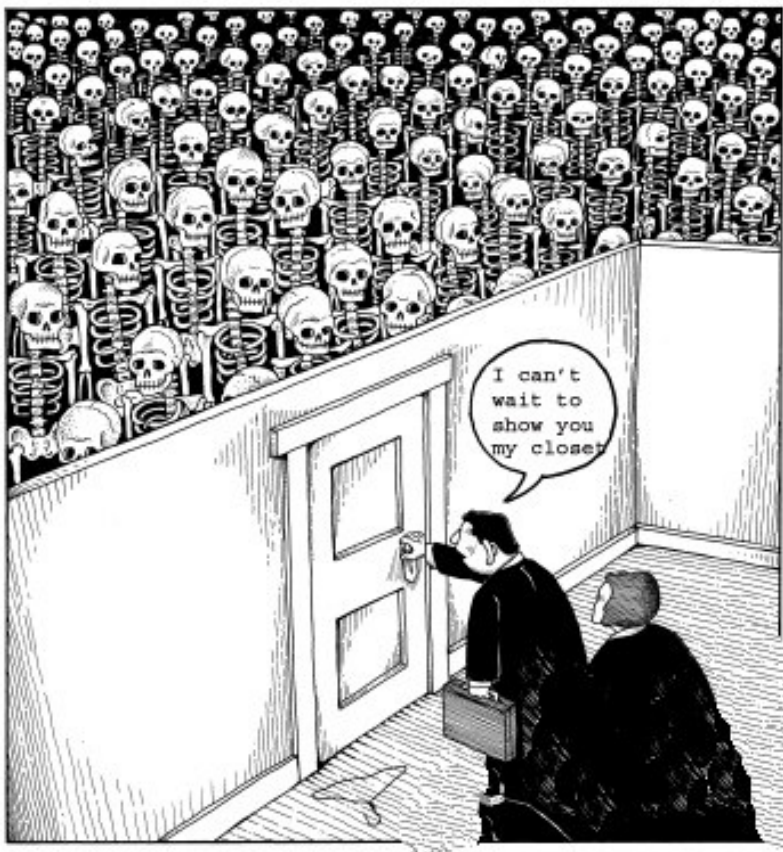
Luke 16:15

"You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight."

"Nobody escapes being wounded. We all are wounded people, whether physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually. The main question is not 'How can we hide our wounds?' so we don't have to be embarrassed, but 'How can we put our woundedness in the service of others?'

When our wounds cease to be a source of shame, and become a source of healing, we have become wounded healers."

Henri Nouwen - *The Wounded Healer*



God's rules:

Rule 1 - No condemnation

Rule 2 - No more hiding and pretending.

Rule 3 - Walking together in authentic community we grow

Romans 3:23-24

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.

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name ... And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all [God's people], to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge.

God's new family of grace can:

1. Help One Another Live in Authentic Truth.

John 8:31-32 *"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

2. *Heal One Another through Authentic Confession.*

James 5:16

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

1 John 1:5-10,

This, in essence, is the message we heard from Christ and are passing on to you: God is light, pure light; there's not a trace of darkness in him. 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. If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. On the other

hand, if we admit our sins—make a clean break of them—he won't let us down; he'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and [wash us clean] of all wrongdoing. (MSG)

Eccl 4:9-12

*Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their work:*

*10 If one falls down,
his friend can help him up.*

*But pity the man who falls
and has no one to help him up!*

*11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?*

*12 Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.*

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.