



# Part 5: Grace for Failures

## INTRODUCTION – Failure, shame and hiding our true selves

Genesis 3:10

## DINE IN – Getting Grace into our Core

### Recipe for Failure

Peter's calling – the miraculous catch led to an honest admission

Luke 5:1-11

Peter's mouth – his greatest strength was his greatest weakness

Matthew 16:13-28

Peter's promise – "I will die for you"

Matthew 26: 31-35; Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:37-38

Peter's denial – "Three strikes, you're out"

Matthew 26: 69-75 Mark 14: 66-72 Luke 22:54-62 John 18:15-18, 25-27

### Restoration for Failures

John 21

Remember your calling. Miraculous catch part 2

Get honest with who you really are. Jesus' three questions to help Peter get honest.

Two kinds of love: Agape – highest love, self-sacrificial love; Phileo - friendship love

Two kinds of knowing: Oida – know the facts; Ginosko – know by personal experience

- 1) "Do you love (agape) me?" "Yes, you know (oida) I love (phileo) you."
- 2) "Do you love (agape) me?" "Yes, you know (oida) I love (phileo) you."
- 3) "Do you love (phileo) me?" Peter is hurt and replies, "You know (oida) everything. You know (ginosko) I love (phileo) you."

Understand maturity is a process. Jesus' three-fold restoration maps out his growth.

Accept that only Jesus can make you into the person you want to be. Jesus confirms that Peter will die for him one day.

Remember your journey is yours alone. Don't compare. "What about them?"

## TAKE OUT – All you need is love!

God sees us for who we really are. Most others do too. Accepting God's grace and love for our greatest failures and struggles within community helps us:

- 1) See ourselves for who we really are;
- 2) Experience how God's love and grace reaches every part of who we are;
- 3) Opens the way for us to grow into becoming the best version of who we can be!

Matthew 13:28-30

## CONCLUSION – We have the best message in the world!

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Luke 2:10, TNIV

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### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

#### Warming Up...

1. Review Sunday's message and notes. Share with the group your greatest sin and failure? Just kidding. Share a time from your childhood when you felt you did something wrong and was caught. How did it make you feel? What did that experience teach you? (That's a safe opener, isn't it?)

#### Look to the Book...

2. Read **Ephesians 5:8-14** in a few different translations if possible. A) If everyone knows that everyone messes up, then why do people tend to try to hide it when they mess up? B) Paul in this passage says that the secret things we do in the dark are fruitless or don't do anyone any good. How might secret sins be fruitless or useless? If we agree these are useless, why do we keep doing them? C) Paul challenges us to share with other Christians the things we do in secret. Why don't we do this more? What do you think would happen if we did? D) Note that Ephesians 5:13-14 literally reads, "Everything exposed by the light becomes a light. For light makes everything a light." The idea is that even our darkest sins when brought into the light of God's forgiveness and grace turns that past failure into a source of light and encouragement to others who are struggling in the darkness of their own sin and failure. Think of how the moon becomes a source of light even though it is black and dead when it reflects the sunlight. Can you give an example where someone commits a terrible sin, confesses it, receives forgiveness, and then that person's story becomes a huge source of encouragement to someone else who was struggling in a similar area? How would the church be different if it was normal for everyone to share openly where they struggled and failed?

#### So What?...

3. Read **James 5:16**. What steps do you need to take to make things safe enough for people to share their greatest failures and struggles (e.g. men sharing with men; women with women, etc.)? Brainstorm how you as a group can start to practice this with a vision of helping God's grace and love get into the core of each of your group members. Take time to pray that each person in your Home Church will experience the depth of God's grace in the places of their greatest struggle and failure.

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Notes are available online at [themeetinghouse.ca/teaching](http://themeetinghouse.ca/teaching)