



[Advance: Next Level Relationships](#)
[How To Deal With Self-Righteousness](#)

If we are going to get to the next level relationally with others, we have got to deal with our spiritual disorders that are hindering us from developing next level relationships. In this sermon series, we are learning about these internal problems and learning what God says we need to do to overcome them.

These spiritual disorders are great barriers that keep us from making disciples. The main method that Jesus used to make disciples was relational. He is our chief example for what it means to be relational. Our internal spiritual disorders affect the way we relate to other people. They keep us from doing our part to connect to others the way Jesus connected to others. We call these internal spiritual disorders, relational B.O.

The first internal spiritual disorder that we learned about that hinders us from getting to the next level in relationships was...

[Self-Condemnation](#)

The next internal spiritual disorder that I want to learn about that hinders us from getting to the next level in relationships is...

[Self-Righteousness](#)

Luke 7:36-50

36 Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. 37 And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, 38 and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

40 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

So he said, "Teacher, say it."

41 "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more."

And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." 44 Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. 45 You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. 46 You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. 47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

48 Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

49 And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

50 Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."
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From this story what can we learn that will help us overcome self-righteousness.

We need to see how self-righteousness affects us?

- [Self-righteous people always form a posse](#)

Simon did not meet Jesus alone. Simon surrounded himself with a posse that agreed with his unrighteous judgments. This made him feel better about himself and gave him a sense of power and control.

If you are self-righteous you will always form a posse.

- [Self-righteousness causes us to judge the motives of others without justification.](#)

Simon and his posse judged the motive of this woman for serving Jesus.

Simon and his posse judged the motive of Jesus for allowing this woman to serve him.

This woman and Jesus were not doing anything that was explicitly forbidden in God's law. But when you are self-righteous, you judge people's motives based on your own personal standards of what is right and wrong.

If you are self-righteous you will judge the motives of others without justification.

- [Self-righteousness prevents us from knowing the love of God.](#)

We cannot understand the love of God until we experience the grace of God.

The woman understood the grace of God because she knew that she was unrighteous and she needed God's forgiveness. She saw that Jesus loved her in spite of her unrighteousness so she loved Jesus.

Simon could not understand the grace of God because he thought he was righteous and did not need God's forgiveness. He thought God saw him as righteous because of his good works and that he had earned God's love. So Simon did not love Jesus or seek to serve Him.

If you are self-righteous, you cannot know the love of God.

- [Self-righteousness prevents us from loving others.](#)

We cannot genuinely love other people until we first have compassion for them.

We do not know who this woman was or what happened to her after she left Jesus that day. But we do know other woman in the bible that were like her and what happened to them when they experienced the grace of God. They became empathetic, compassionate people that were on mission for Jesus.

Because Simon and his posse were self-righteous, He was not empathetic toward this woman or any one like her. He condemned people like her. He kept his distance from people like her.

If you are self-righteous, it is impossible for you to genuinely love others.

[How do you overcome self-righteousness?](#)

- [You must stop comparing your righteousness with the righteousness of others.](#)

Self-righteousness is caused by comparing our righteousness with the righteousness of other people.(2 Cor. 10:12)

The woman saw her sinful condition because she compared herself to Jesus.

Simon did not see his sinful condition because he compared himself to people like the woman.

If you are self-righteous it is because you compare your righteousness with others.

[2 Cor 10:12](#)

12 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

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In order to stop being self-righteous you must compare yourself with Jesus. When you make that comparison you will find that...

Your self-righteousness is like filthy rags. Paul said there is none righteous, no not one. Apart from Christ God describes you this way. You are....

- Evil
- Wicked
- Unclean
- Ungodly
- Profane
- Filthy
- Wretch
- Worm
- Brute beast
- Harlot-Eyes full of adultery
- Adulterer
- Murderer
- Betrayer
- Cowardly
- Reviler
- Gossip
- Slanderer
- Abominable
- Fornicator
- Thief
- Liar
- Extortioner
- Blasphemer
- Insolent
- Rebel
- Spot
- Blemish
- Accursed child
- Well without water
- Slave of corruption
- Serpent
- Viper
- Chaff
- White washed tomb
- Hypocrite
- Son of hell
- Blind guide
- Fool
- Lawless
- Insubordinate

There is nothing about you that makes you desirable to God. To overcome self-righteousness you must stop comparing yourself with others and start comparing yourself with the righteousness of God. Then you will see your need for God's forgiveness.

- You must stop believing the lie that you can obtain righteousness by your good works that will make you acceptable to God.(Ephesians 2:8-9)
- You must believe you are loved by God.(John 3:16)

Self-righteous people are loved by God.

We know that Jesus loved the woman because he accepted her and said her sins were forgiven.

But Jesus also loved Simon and his posse.

Jesus showed that He loved Simon and his posse by..

1. Going to Simon's house
2. Eating with Simon and his posse
3. Sharing the truth with Simon

If you are self-righteous, God loves you. Jesus is reaching out to you today, the same way he reached out to Simon.

- You must receive by faith the righteousness that comes from God's grace through Jesus Christ.(Romans 3:21-22)

If you will become like this woman in the story and compare your righteousness with God's righteousness, and if you will by faith receive the grace of God through Jesus, Jesus will...

1. Forgive all of your sins.
Past, present, and future.
2. Give you credit for His righteousness
3. Purify you with His righteous presence.

Jesus can do this for you because He is the Son of God. He was executed for your sins. He rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is Lord of all.

[Romans 3:21-22](#)

[21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.](#)

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If you are self-righteous, you must receive the righteousness that comes from God's grace through Jesus.

- You must grow in the grace of God through Jesus Christ.(2 Peter 3:17-18)

The only truth this woman knew about the grace of God was that Jesus loved her and that her sins were forgiven. She did not understand that when the Holy Spirit was given, she would become one spirit with God. She did not understand that when she received the Holy Spirit she would be born again. She did not understand that when she received the Holy Spirit she would become a new creation. She did not understand that when she received the Holy Spirit she would receive a new life. She did not understand that when she received the Holy Spirit she would become a member of Christ's church, a member of His body.

If her limited experience with the grace of God could change how she related to God and others, how much more should our greater understanding of the grace of God change how

we love God and love others? How much more should we have a freedom to enter his presence? How much more should we desire to bow at His feet and thank Him for bringing us the good news? How much more should we share our affection with Him? How much more should we honor Him? How much more should we love others?

The grace of God is so deep and so broad. There is so much more that God wants to show you about His grace.

2 Peter 3:17-18

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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To overcome self-righteousness, you need to be intentional about growing in His grace.

- You must remain in the grace of God.(Gal. 5:4-5)

It is possible to fall from grace.

Gal 5:4-5

4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

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Falling from grace does not mean to lose your eternal salvation. Falling from grace means to return to being self-righteous. Falling from grace means that you fall back into the trap of comparing your righteousness with others and believing the lie that you are more righteous than others because of your good works.

If you are walking in the grace of God there is no reason for us to feel superior to other people; to look down on other people. There is no reason for us to feel inferior to other people; to look up to other people.

The grace of God solves our problem with pride and it solves our problem with low self-esteem.

Paul said it this way. I no longer relate to anyone according to their flesh.(2 Cor. 5:16-17)

2 Cor. 5:16-17

16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

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We are all equal at the foot of the cross!

The grace of God changed the way this woman related to God and to others and it will change you the same way if you will remain in the grace of God.

I am concerned. I see way too many Simons attending church. Don't you? Are you one of them?

Are you one of them because you have fallen from grace?

Are you one of them because you have never received the grace of God?