

Rankings...

When and where do people get ranked? Based on what?

In a group of 100 people, where would you rank in terms of...

- Height: tallest? Shortest?
- Athletic ability?
- Artistic ability?
- Being a good friend?
- Having moral clarity? (being able to identify immorality)
- Being a good, moral person?

How does this ranking affect
our relationship with God and people?

1

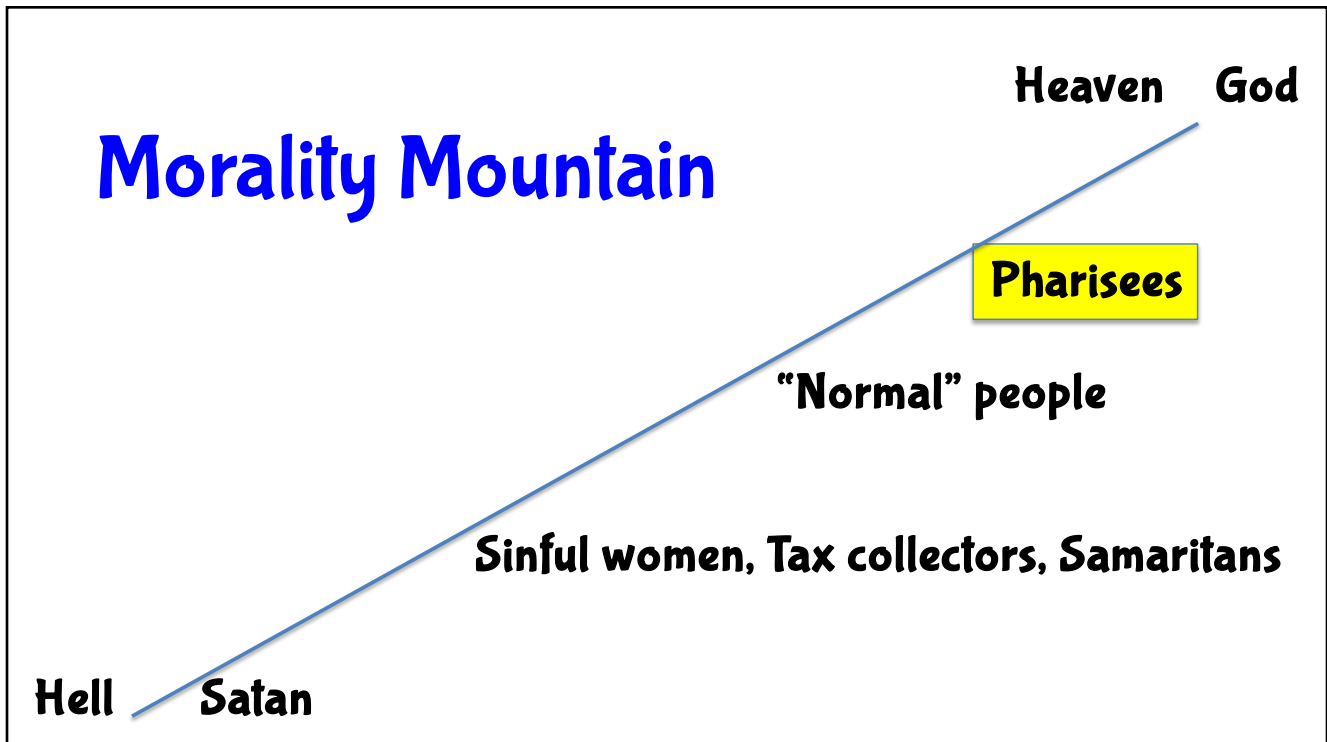
Boundless Joy!

Luke 7:36-50

bib.ly/Lk7.NIV
tiny.cc/cmchandouts



2



3

Pharisees

Highly respected and powerful people in society

- They followed the rules of God very carefully
 - certain rules got more of their attention than others
- They studied the Scriptures (plus their own traditions) very carefully
- They were passionate for staying away from people and groups that were not similarly “pure”
- They were viewed (and viewed themselves) as knowing who was pleasing to God and who was not

4

Jesus' ways were problematic to the Pharisees

Jesus said: “Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

(All the people, **even the tax collectors**, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. **a very startling claim in Jesus' day!** **“Scandalous!”**)

But the **Pharisees and the experts in the law** rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.) **for example...**

Luke 7:23, 29-30

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Luke 7:36-38

³⁶ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

sinful life = judged as immoral and unworthy by society
alabaster jar = translucent stone to hold expensive liquids

6

Luke 7:39

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.”

the one who is to come = God’s Promised One to bring God’s Kingdom

7

Luke 7:40-43

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.” “Tell me, teacher,” he said.

⁴¹ “Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

⁴³ Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”

“You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

denarius = pay for one day of a laborer’s work

8

Luke 7:44-47

⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

9

Luke 7:48-50

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”
⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”
⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

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13

Luke 7:36-50

36-38: Sinful woman highly honors Jesus when Pharisee didn't

- Pharisee and woman were exact opposites in society
 - Opposite ends of "Morality Mountain"
- Why did Pharisee (4 times!) invite Jesus?
 - Maybe because he was skeptical
 - He wanted to see for himself what Jesus was like
 - Maybe he wanted the honor of hosting a popular traveling speaker at a feast (a semi-public event)

39:

40-43:

44-47:

48-50:

- Why did Jesus go?
 - Graciously reaching out to the group that so often rejected Him

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Luke 7:36-50**36-38: Sinful woman highly honors Jesus when Pharisee didn't**

- Woman was known by the locals, including Pharisee
- She was viewed as “a sinner” (in society’s view)
 - Even if others sinned, she was viewed as much worse
 - She came intentionally to anoint Jesus’ feet
 - “How beautiful are the feet of him who brings good news” *Isaiah 52:7*
 - Perhaps she expected his feet to have been cleaned
 - as a host would have done to show high honor
- Shocking actions! (weeping, feet, hair, perfume)
- Jesus viewed her actions as an extreme expression of love and worship
- It seems she came because she realized forgiveness

39:

40-43:

44-47:

48-50:

15

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Luke 7:36-50

36-38: Sinful woman highly honors Jesus when Pharisee didn't

39: The Pharisee silently judges the woman

- Pharisee: the most virtuous people in society
 - This is his house, and he is responsible for the feast
- His thinking:
 - A true prophet would be able to see the woman's great sinfulness
 - A true prophet would not allow such a bad sinner to touch him

40-43: • At least one of these 2 statements isn't true of Jesus

44-47: • Therefore, Jesus is not a true prophet (he is a fake)

48-50: • He judges Jesus for not judging the woman

17

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40-43: **Principle: being forgiven more results in more love**

- Great irony: Jesus did know sinful hearts!
 - Both the woman's and the Pharisee's
 - Pharisee did not know or admit his own sin
- 2 debtors: 20 months versus 2 months
 - Both had the same trouble: unable to pay
- Our view of how much we need forgiveness

44-47: from Jesus shapes how we respond to Him

48-50: • Receiving genuine forgiveness produces love in us

19

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44-47: **Woman proves God's wonderful forgiveness of her**

- Jesus (shockingly) directly compares Pharisee and sinful woman: shaming him and honoring her
- “Do you **see** this woman?”
 - “Do you realize the love and beauty in her response?”
- She lavishly does what Pharisee did not do at all
- Her love is evidence of her acceptance by God

48-50: • His lack of love is also revealing

21

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44-47: Woman proves God's wonderful forgiveness of her

48-50: **Jesus blesses and honors the woman, to others' shock!**

- Jesus publicly declares what the woman has already sensed: her sins are gone!
 - Wonderful assurance **and** restoration
- Others are shocked that Jesus claims God's authority
 - And that God would forgive & honor such a woman!!
- Saved by her faith, which resulted in rich love
- Jesus calls her to walk in God's ways of peace

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The Big Idea

**The love of God in Christ
is for sinners who accept
His gift of forgiveness and love
as the **opposite** of what they deserve
which fills their lives with joyous love
for God and for others**

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Self-righteousness: believing that I am morally superior

- to people in another religious group
- to people in another social category, socio-economic class, tribe, country, ethnicity, ...
- to people in another political party
- to people in a sin that particularly bothers me

Self-righteousness separates us from God

Self-righteousness separates us from other people

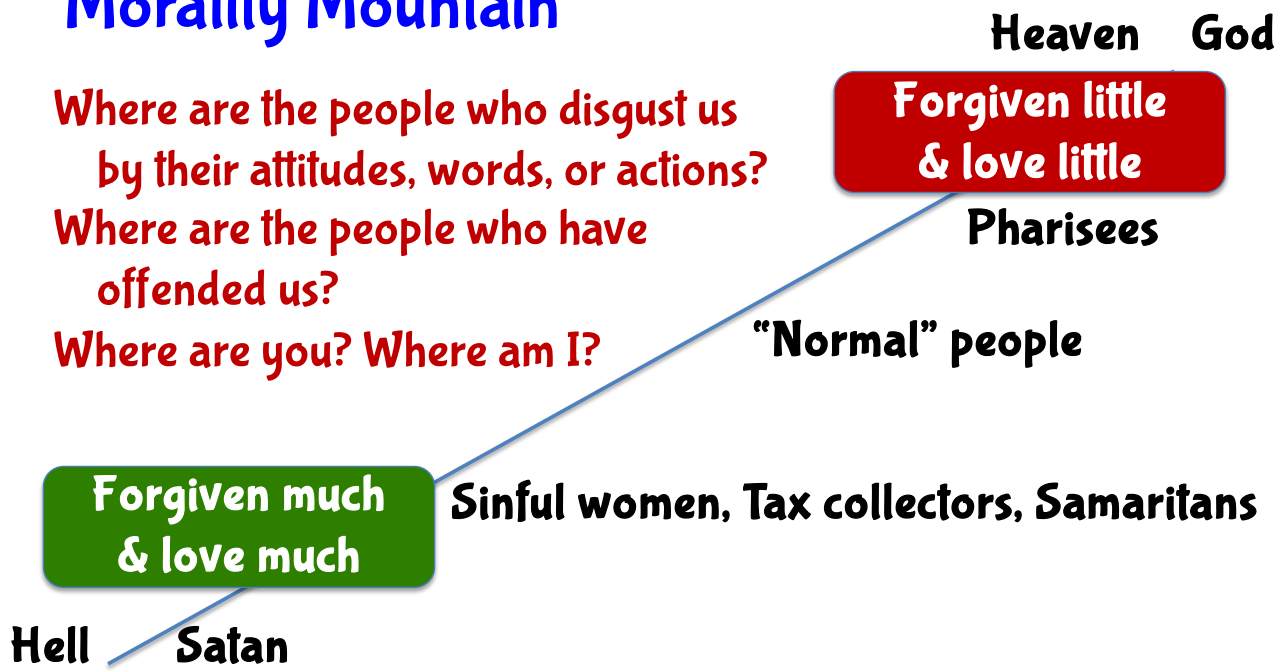
Self-righteousness destroys love

Self-righteous hearts are the farthest from God

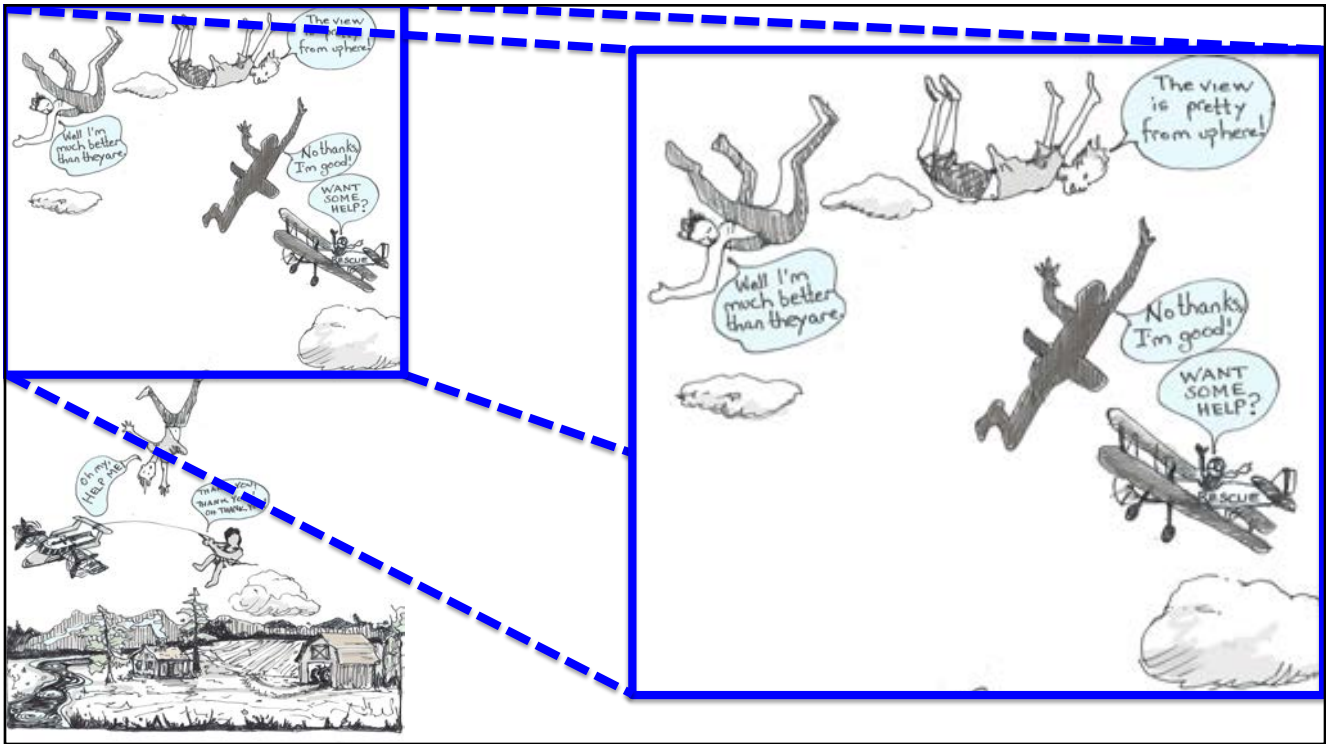
- **The Gospel is the opposite of self-righteousness**

25

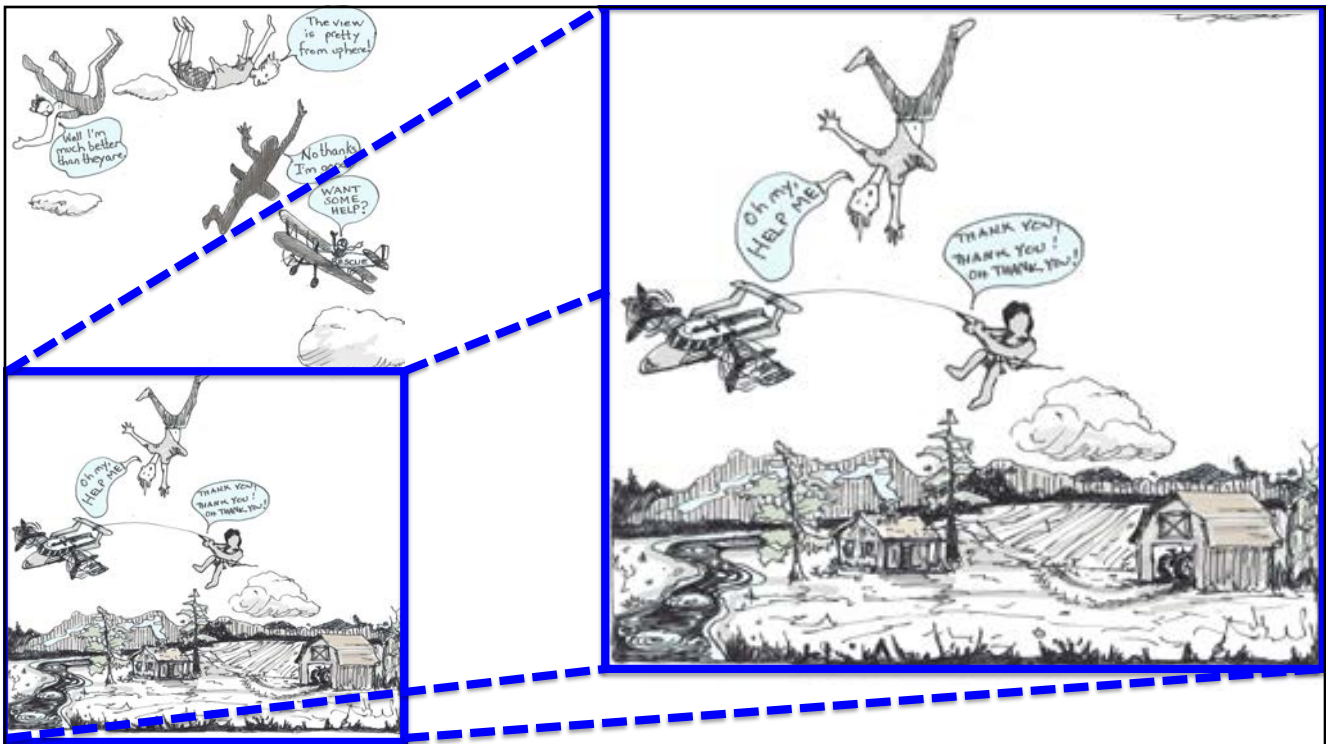
Morality Mountain



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The only difference between the high and the low is that the high imagine themselves to be better off

and they judge those who are lower

So they are less likely to think they need help, or to accept help, or to appreciate help

They love neither God nor people

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Application

Be deeply moved by sin, righteousness, judgment, and grace

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Application

Be deeply moved by sin, righteousness, judgment, and grace

- My **sin**, including my self-righteousness, is my disaster
 - God’s gracious work is only ever with ungodly people
 - **Judging others is my claim that I am not in this category!**
 - We attack the people God deeply loves, and then we sit in the judgment seat of God, declaring ourselves better than them
 - “You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.” *Romans 2:1*
 - Our sins might be different particular sins, yet we all owe a debt because of sin **that we can never repay**

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Application

Be deeply moved by sin, righteousness, judgment, and grace

- My **sin**, including my self-righteousness, is my disaster
- God's **righteousness** cannot tolerate sin
 - He is morally perfect and glorious
 - He is completely humble, patient, kind, & understanding
 - He is the perfect combination of justice and mercy
 - The intensity of His holiness consumes anything unholy that enters His presence
 - And my self-righteousness is a key thing He cannot tolerate!

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Application

Be deeply moved by sin, righteousness, judgment, and grace

- My **sin**, including my self-righteousness, is my disaster
- God's **righteousness** cannot tolerate sin
- God's just **judgment** is for sinners like me
 - Justice will be done
 - Judgment is real and frightening
 - Being separate from God is unending death
 - Realize my **complete disaster** apart from the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for me

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Application

Be deeply moved by sin, righteousness, judgment, and grace

- My **sin**, including my self-righteousness, is my disaster
- God's **righteousness** cannot tolerate sin
- God's just **judgment** is for sinners like me
- God's **grace** completely saves those who trust in Christ
 - Jesus' death on the cross purchased complete and final rescue from **all** my sin and its disastrous effects!
 - I am clothed in the perfect righteousness of Jesus forever!
 - Forgiveness is freely given in Jesus, for all who will put their trust in Him
 - My hope: Jesus was working to bring grace to Simon that day

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Application

Be deeply moved by sin, righteousness, judgment, and grace

Repent of self-righteousness

- It is ugly, foolish, a lie, and destructive
 - It separates us from God
 - It separates us from other people
 - **Please confront me when you see it in me!**
- We still must have a prophetic voice!
 - Jesus did and does
 - After removing the log of self-righteousness, we can see more clearly to remove the speck from others' eyes
 - With a purer love and humility and desire for the glory of God

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Application

Be deeply moved by sin, righteousness, judgment, and grace

Repent of self-righteousness

Receive complete forgiveness in Christ

- “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” *Romans 5:8*
- “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” *John 3:16*

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Application

Be deeply moved by sin, righteousness, judgment, and grace

Repent of self-righteousness

Receive complete forgiveness in Christ

Joyfully love God

- Remind ourselves regularly...
 - What we deserve: shame, God’s wrath, judgment
 - What we receive in Christ: we are the honored and deeply loved children of God
- Respond with great appreciation, joy, and thankfulness
- Trust God in the “smaller things” of life
 - Our perfect, gracious Father is working it all for our good

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My sin...

oh, the joy of this glorious thought!

My sin, not in part, but the whole
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more!

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

39

Application

Be deeply moved by sin, righteousness, judgment, and grace

Repent of self-righteousness

Receive complete forgiveness in Christ

Joyfully love God

Joyfully love people

- Knowing how God has forgiven me generates generous love for others in me
- “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” *Romans 15:7*
- Having received such amazing love from God, we have the joy of being a conduit of God’s love for others

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**“Accept one another, then,
just as Christ accepted you,
in order to bring praise to God.”** *Romans 15:7*

- How we accept others is an indication of how God has accepted us
- When I don't love others, it is evidence that...
 - I don't realize how much I need for forgiveness from God
 - I don't realize how completely I have been forgiven in Christ

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To be clear...

Our love is **not a means to get** God's love

Our love is **our inevitable response** to receiving His love

“This is love: not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” *1 John 4:10*

“We love because he first loved us.” *1 John 4:19*

42

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**The love of God in Christ
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as the **opposite** of what they deserve
which fills their lives with joyous love
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How much forgiveness do you need?

How much forgiveness have you received in Christ?

Our love for others and for God will reflect that

Thank you, God, for such great love for sinners like me!