

2024 SPRING CONNECT GROUPS
'GET REAL' WEEK 6: REAL PEOPLE AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH
Week of MAY 12-May 18th

Introduction: The big idea: "Real people aren't good enough, but Jesus makes us good enough."

Summary: As 'real people' we often feel inadequate and insecure. We like to highlight our faults and failures and be our own worst critics. At times, we may feel like we don't measure up as a spouse, as a parent, in material things, or in achievements and accomplishments. On top of this, when you add in the 'religious demands' we feel that God expects from us, we really feel like we aren't enough. But the message of the Gospel (the good news) is that Jesus takes people who 'aren't good enough' and makes them good enough!

This week we looked at three reasons why Jesus makes us good enough:

- 1. Because the Gospel is a cross... not a ladder, treadmill, or scorecard**
- 2. Because the question isn't "I am good enough?" the question is: "Is Jesus good enough?"**
- 3. Because Grace + The Finished Work of Christ = Good Enough!**

In this message we looked at principles such as:

- When placed up against God's perfection, we all fall short.
- Works-based religion sends us on a never-ending search for something we already have in Christ.
- Religion = DO; Gospel = DONE
- You aren't saved through your obedience but through Christ's obedience.
- The Gospel message isn't "Jesus PLUS..." it's "Jesus, PERIOD."
- In Christ you are justified and righteous; these are gifts from God, there's nothing you can do to earn them.

Scriptures to Explore:

- 1. Romans 3:23-24**
- 2. 2 Corinthians 5:21**
- 3. Ephesians 2:8-9**

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think so many people live life feeling 'not enough'? In what areas of life have you ever felt like you 'didn't measure up' and how did that impact your self-perception?
2. In the message, we used the images of a ladder, treadmill and scorecard to illustrate the never-ending striving for 'religious perfection'. Have you ever related to any of these items, and if so, which ones and why?
3. Read Ephesians 3:23-24, how does the acknowledgment of our universal sinfulness level the playing field among humanity? In what ways does Jesus' redemptive work provide hope and assurance?
4. Discuss what the word 'righteousness' means to you in 1 Corinthians 5:21. Do you see yourself as righteous, or do you have trouble accepting this truth of the Gospel?
5. In reflecting on Ephesians 2:8-9, how does the emphasis on grace challenge the common idea that we need to earn our salvation or be "good enough" for God's acceptance? Share personal experiences or insights into how grace has impacted your understanding of salvation.

Personal Application: Spend time in prayer, reflecting on specific areas where you struggle with not feeling "good enough" and surrender these areas to Jesus and receive His grace.

Prayer