

Dropping The “Good” Image

5th Step – Lesson 1

“We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

1 Timothy 1:12-17 -- I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

- A lot of people (Paul had probably been one of them) go through life thinking, “I’m basically a good person,” and they pour a whole lot of emotion and energy into keeping that image alive. What makes you afraid to admit that there’s something seriously and fundamentally bad about you?
- It would have been very hard for Paul to keep on trying to prop up that image of being a good person, since he had become known throughout the Christian community as a vicious Christian hunter. But he could have tried. Have you ever gone to great lengths to explain away what was bad about you?
- How did that kind of denial affect you?
- Paul says here that God’s love and acceptance, and the power of Jesus’ death on the cross, is directed at sinners, not “good people.” How has that helped you to quit trying to convince yourself how good you are and admit your wrongs?
- How has it helped your relationship with God to admit your wrongs?
- How has it helped your recovery to admit your wrongs?