
Love First: The Jesus Way

New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, May 5, 2019

Jesus Welcomed Sinners, Others Did Not

“The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, ‘He’s a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!’”

Luke 7:34, NLT (Matthew 11:19)

If Jesus Was A Friend of Sinners, All Believers Should Be Too!

“If you love me, obey my commandments.” *John 14:15, NLT*

“But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” *Matthew 5:28, NLT*

“[Jesus] understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.” *Hebrews 4:15, NLT*

The Sinner in The Tree

Luke 19:1-10

“When Jesus came to that place, he looked up and said to Zacchaeus, “Hurry down, Zacchaeus, because I must stay in your house today.” *Luke 19:5, GNB*

“All the people who saw it started grumbling, “This man has gone as a guest to the home of a sinner!” *Luke 19:7, GNB*
“Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Listen, sir! I will give half my belongings to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay back four times as much.” *Luke 19:8, GNB*

It's Love, Not Rules and Righteousness That
Opens A Hardened Heart

“Acceptance Does Not Equal Affirmation”

The Jesus Way: Begin with Love

Jesus Has a Predictable Pattern Towards Big Sinners

Whenever Jesus Encountered People Who Were
Engaged in Sin, Jesus Showed Love

Does Jesus Ignore Our Behavior? No

Does Jesus Ignore Truth? No

“... God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance” *Romans 2:4, ESV*

“God’s Kindness Leads to Repentance,
Not Our Repentance That Leads to God’s Kindness”

“Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them! **So Jesus told them this story:**” *Luke 15:1–3, NLT*

My #1 Priority When I Encounter Anyone Is
The State of Their Soul, Not Their Behavior

According to Dr. Sprinkle: 83% of LGBT People Grew Up in The Church, But Ended Up Leaving. Many Left Not Because Of The Bible Teaching on Homosexuality, But Because They Were ...

DEHUMANIZED

The Problem with Labels:
They Limit Understanding

“Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.” *Romans 12:2, GNB*

<https://www.centerforfaith.com/resources>

