

Liar, Liar: I'm Kind of a Big Deal

"We are **loved by God, forgiven by God** and **invited to the banquet table**. In the midst of a planet marked by brokenness—violence, natural disasters, ruptured relationships—the gospel is truly good news." Philip Yancy

Big Idea: Our self-worth is found in being a loved sinner in Jesus.

We live in a world that is full of Spiritually Dangerous Lies!

"[The devil] was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies ... I tell the truth." John 8:44-45

Myth #6 'I'm Kind of a Big Deal!'

I) Extreme #1 Being depressed because you are not like

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15: 9-11

A) The lie we want to debunk in this message is not whether we are a big deal, but why they're a big deal. There are far too many people who measure their lives using all the **wrong barometers**. They lack the joy Jesus talks about because they compare themselves to others, often on the internet.

"Pinterest Depressing" In a survey of 7,000 U.S. mothers, 42 percent said that they sometimes suffer from Pinterest stress – the worry that they're not crafty or creative enough. Symptoms include staying up until 3 a.m. clicking through photos of exquisite hand-made birthday party favors even though you'll end up buying yours at the dollar store, or sobbing quietly into a burnt mess of expensive ingredients that were supposed to be adorable bunny cookies for the school bake sale. . . "Pinterest is largely a site of unrealized dreams." **Stop the Pinsanity!**

"The Facebook Effect" The danger of the Internet is that it's very, very easy to tell partial truths—to show the fabulous meal but not the mess to clean up afterward. To display the smiling couple-shot, but not the fight you had three days ago. To offer up the sparkly milestones but not the spiraling meltdowns."

"My life looks better on the Internet than it does in real life. Everyone's life looks better on the internet than it does in real life. The Internet is partial truths—we get to decide what people see and what they don't. That's why it's safer short term. And that's why it's much, much more dangerous long term. . . . But that's the Internet. The nature of it. I so easily fall prey to the seduction of other people's partial truths and heavily filtered photos, making everything look amazing. And their amazing looking lives make me feel not amazing at all."

C) God's joy is found in choosing community. Let's stop comparing. Let's start connecting. Let's disconnect from net more and connect with living people and living God more.

“Community happens when we hear each other’s actual voices, when we enter one another’s actual homes, with actual messes, around actual tables telling stories that ramble on beyond 140 pithy characters. .But seeing the best possible, often-unrealistic, half-truth version of other peoples’ lives isn’t the only danger of the Internet. Our envy buttons also get pushed because we rarely check Facebook when we’re having our own peak experiences. We check it when we’re bored and when we’re lonely, and it intensifies that boredom and loneliness.”

D) To have the Fathers love and the Fathers joy you must also connect with the Father. Is connecting with God a priority in your life?

This week I will get in the habit of

II) ‘I’m Kind of a Big Deal. Extreme #2 Being puffed up because you are better than . . .

“Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and brag about your relationship to God; if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth ...”
Romans 2:17-20

A) There were some Jews in the first century who thought they were kind of big deals. They would have had the perfect Pinterest posts...

Spiritually – they bragged about their relationships to God

Intellectually – they were instructed by the law

Socially – everybody looked to them for wisdom! **See Romans 3:9-18**

Life Point: Boasting on our perfection, or thinking we know all the answers can drive people away from God. “There is darkness without and when I die there will be darkness within.”
Bertrand Russel

“I would have liked to convince my father that I had found what he had been looking for, the ineffable something he had longed for all his life. I would have liked to persuade him that the search for God does not have to be vain. But it was hopeless. He had known too many blind Christians, bleak moralists who sucked the joy from life and persecuted their opponents; he would never have been able to see the truth they were hiding.” Bertrand Russell’s daughter.

B) **We are called to communicate the Christian faith in love and humility.** It is through our **acts of love** that we make known the invisible God. “I doubt God keeps track of how many arguments we win; God may indeed keep track of how well we love.”

“To our most bitter opponents we say: . . . Do what you will, and we shall continue to love you. We cannot in all good consciences obey your unjust laws because noncooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperating with good. Throw us in jail and we shall still love you. Bomb our homes and threaten our children, and we shall still love you. Send your hooded perpetrators of violence into our community at the midnight hour and beat us and leave us half dead, and we shall still love you. But be you assured that we will wear you down by our capacity to suffer. One day we shall win freedom but not only for ourselves. We shall so appeal to your heart and conscience that we shall win you in the process and our victory will be a double victory.” MLK

- C) **The Problem with Measurement:** We measure ourselves in a bunch of different ways: by our appearance, by our wealth, by our pedigree, by our accomplishments, and even by our energy. This leads to Despair or Arrogance. We need a new way!

III) You are a Big Deal Because of Jesus Love for us and Our Love for Others!

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.” John 15:12-17

- A) **Through Confession and Absolution we become children of God.** *“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”* 1 John 3:1

- B) **We received gifts from God.** *“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”* 1 Corinthians 12:7 *“And now I will show you the most excellent way.”* 1 Corinthians 12:31. What your kids will remember most is **your love!**

- C) **We have been chosen by God.** *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.”* Jeremiah 1:5

“The Christian sees the world as a transitional home badly in need of rehab, and we are active agents of love in that project. **Life Point: Now our self-worth is tied to God’s love for us.**