

# Gospel Identity 6

## Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God

Today's lesson is on one of the more confusing that we may touch on. It's not something that is confusing as in your advanced mathematics homework, but it's confusing because it's way too simple.

Here's the idea; God's wrath...ALL of God's wrath and anger is completely satisfied and payed for in Christ's sacrifice. We need to learn to live in a way that reflects that fact and not in a "works based faith" or any other legalistic framework of faith.

Sadly, some people think that if you step outside of some boundary, you are under God's wrath and condemnation. When you think that way it's easy to slip into a mentality of, we have to "do better" or "shape up" so we can appease an angry God – or other angry Christians. But truthfully, before anything we need to solidify our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and not our performance.

God is for us, with us, and in us.

1. Share with your group have you ever had someone make you feel, "Not good enough"? How did you respond? Did you try harder, get angry, judge them in return, give up, or something else? Explain.

Feeling "not good enough" is rough... and as bad as people can make us feel, it's worse to feel that we've failed God.

As sinners though, we will never be perfect. The good news is that God wants us to bring every habit, hurt or hang up to him so He can help us live the life He has laid out for us. Part of that is trusting Him rather than trying to please Him, and having full understanding that Jesus has already paid the price for whatever debt we could make.

Read Luke [15:11-32](#) then discuss the following questions.

2. What words would you use to describe the younger son when he left home...and when he returned?
3. What if the prodigal son had left again after this? How many times before you'd think the father was just enabling him?
4. How did the father communicate his love to both sons? Come up with as many examples as you can.
5. When has someone believed in you far past the point of you deserving it? Share about the person and what he or she did. How were you affected by it?

Read Romans [3:20-28](#); Romans [5:6-10](#); and Ephesians [2:4-9](#) then discuss the following questions.

6. What do these passages say about God's wrath and judgement of those who believe and place their trust in Him?
7. How does sin affect our relationship with God? Share examples from scripture as well as your own life, as much as you can.
8. Why do we usually stop going back to God after we repeatedly sin? Are we right to do so? Explain.

**If we think that God's anger or pleasure with us is based totally on what we do, and not on what Jesus has done on the cross, then we are in trouble. But the question remains, "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?" (Romans 6:1). Clearly, continuing in willful sin is not living a life of faith. The life of faith says, "I really do want to live a life pleasing to God. Lord show me how to actually do that."**

**Our sin can still hurt the Spirit, and we may come under the Fathers discipline. However, that doesn't ever change our identity in Christ. God invites us to be honest about our shortcomings and confess our sins regularly. Because we can be honest about our shortcomings we invite others closer to God as well.**

**Please read 1 John 4:11-19, and then discuss the following questions.**

9. When has sharing how God loved you opened a door for someone else to experience God's love? Talk about it.
10. In what ways do you need to be perfected in love right now?

**How can you make God's love for you more visible to others this week? Take time right now to choose an accountability partner and choose a weekly challenge!**

- Where do you still struggle with fearing punishment? Spend time this week talking it out with God, and another Christian you trust! Your transparency might open an avenue of healing for both of you!
- Who is a "prodigal son" you need to love on? Someone who has either walked away from God or the church? Spend time with that person this week. Listen way more than you talk – allow him or her to see Christ in you, rather than just you.
- Who doesn't know God's love but needs to know? Have you ever heard the story of Pete Sasala? It took a loving persistence to get him to Christ. Not a forceful one. Who can you be lovingly persistent to this week?

**My accountability partner is \_\_\_\_\_, Their number is \_\_\_\_\_.**

**I am going to call/text my accountability partner on, \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Pray out with your accountability partner.**