



The Flip
Philippians 1:3-6, 9-11
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
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Bottom Line: The Christian life is not about avoiding something. It's about becoming something.

Introduction:

Single women, how would you feel about a guy whose life's ambition was summarized by these three goals:

- Not lose my current job.
- Not get another DUI.
- Not get another girl pregnant.

Dad's imagine your teenage daughter brings a guy home and leaves you alone for a moment, and you ask, "Son, what do you see in your future?" He replies with the three things above.

The sad thing is, that is how so many approach our relationship with God.

Review:

I know a chaotic life when I **see** one ... because I **am** one.

We come by it honestly. Our parents and their parents had their own versions of chaos.

We are all a collection of different chaos-es, and this leads us to ...

"Nobody's **perfect**," which really acknowledges there is a **perfect** and nobody is.

Good News: Jesus loves the chaotic world and loves us too much to leave us that way.

Contrary to popular opinion, Christianity is not about screwing up over and over and getting forgiveness over and over. That may be country music, but it's not Christianity!

“Like Jesus Does” by Eric Church

I'm a long-gone Waylon song on vinyl,
I'm a back roads sinner at a tent revival.
She believes in me like she believes her Bible,
And loves me like Jesus does.

“Heart Like Mine” by Miranda Lambert

'Cause I heard Jesus he drank wine
And I bet we'd get along just fine
He could calm a storm and heal the blind
And I bet he'd understand a heart like mine.

Before we know it, our approach to faith is the same as the boyfriend.

- We dumb down Christianity to: Staying out of trouble.
- But if we do (or) if we don't, no problem: God forgives!

The Christian life is not about avoiding another mess. It's about becoming something.

[Read Philippians 1:3-11]

Application:

Following Jesus is not primarily about doing what's right or just staying out of trouble. Right for right's sake or for my sake is Old Testament. Jesus raised the bar.

It's about doing what's right for others!

Conclusion:

*Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.
-- Philippians 1:6*

Pray: Heavenly Father, complete the work you've begun in me.

I know a chaotic mess when I see one because I am **one**.

When we say, “But nobody's **perfect**,” we actually acknowledge that there is a perfect.

When we acknowledge our giant messes, we are just baby steps away from acknowledging God.

Sometimes, the mess just seems too big to clean up. We don't know

where to begin. Have you ever ignored your conscience, the advice of others, or God? That mess that came about as a result may just be the mess that brings God near.

Just think of that – your chaotic life has the potential to bring God near to you!

***For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
-- John 3:17***

Jesus loved people right in the middle of their chaos:

- The woman caught in the act of adultery (John 8).
- The dishonest tax collector (Luke 19:5).
- The Samaritan woman at the well (John 4).
- The criminal on the cross (Luke 23:43).

Jesus invited messy, chaotic people to follow him while there were still messy people.

John 8:12, “When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the **light** of the world. Whoever **follows me** will never walk in darkness, but will have the **light** of life.’”

Matthew 7:24-26, “Everyone who **hears** these words of mine and **puts them into practice** is like a wise man who **built** his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that you; yet it did not fall, because it had its **foundation** on the rock. Everyone who **hears** these words of mine and **does not put them into practice** is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.”

You cannot just **pray** your way out of a mess you **behaved** yourself into.

You can **follow** your way out.

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: John 8:12.**
- Acknowledge Your Mess.**
- Believe & Accept God’s Solution.**
- Pastor, today I have decided to follow Jesus.**