



BEING HUMAN

INTRODUCTION

People are okay telling a doctor that their bodies have a problem or telling a mechanic that their car has a problem. Why is it so difficult for people who sin to tell other people who commit sins that they have a sin problem?

DISCUSSION

Why is it so difficult for people who sin to tell other people who commit sins that they have a sin problem?

EXPLANATION

Is it possible for someone to be struggling so deeply with sin and yet still be longing for God at the same time?

What do you think about the statement “I can only be loved to the extent that I am known”?

Who in your life truly knows you?

What are your greatest fears about being fully and truly known?

APPLICATION

Who in your life have you put on a pedestal?

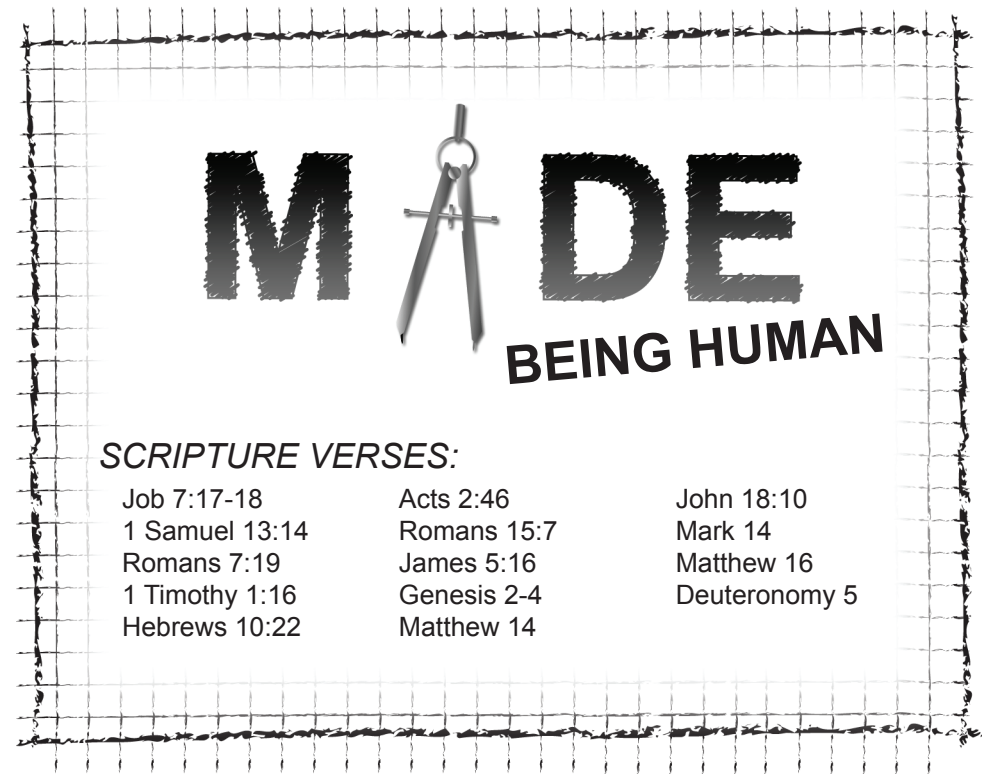
What does that look like?

How does this make you treat them differently than other people in your life?

Have you ever experienced the J curve?

What did it look like?

How can honesty with others encourage your growth in Christ?



WEEK 4 NOTES

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BEING HUMAN

Job 7:17-18

***“What is man that you make so much of him,
that you give him so much attention,
that you examine him every morning
and test him every moment?”***

Sin is a great problem for all of humanity. We are born into it. It destroys our lives, and yet we are so afraid to even talk about it. People are okay telling a doctor that their bodies have a problem or telling a mechanic that their car has a problem. Why is it so difficult for people who sin to tell other people who commit sins that they have a sin problem?

Two things (other than a deep love for Christ) make gospel communities viable - **Sincerity and Acceptance**

Sincere: ***Sine cera*** - Without wax. **Act 2:46** ***“They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,”*** Why? They were without wax; there was a circle of connectedness where all people could come on in just as they were. Why were they glad? Because where hearts are sincere, they will be glad.

Romans 15:7 ***“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God..”*** Acceptance literally means **to grant one access to one’s heart**. When someone knows the embarrassing, humiliating truth about us and still accepts us, it’s liberating.

But, Jesus loves us too much to leave us just the way we are. He calls us into who we were always meant to be...whole people, honoring others and Him.

IN GOSPEL COMMUNITITES

- **Give the Gift of Confession**

If we keep all of our lives apart and secret from every other person, we will never understand the love God calls His people to—deep and unconditional. You can only receive love from others to the extent that you are known by others. You cannot be fully loved until you are fully known.

- **There are No Pedestals**

No scripture writer does what churches are so tempted to do, which is put people on a pedestal. Scripture is remarkably transparent about the flaws and brokenness of people. The people who need help the most receive it the least, because that would mean leaving the pedestal.

- **Recognize the Curve**

If you have rarely lived rightly, your initial attempts may be clumsy. But failure isn’t falling down; failure is refusing to try.

- **Give The Gift of Honest Language**

Pretending always cuts us off from each other and God’s Spirit. There is an old hymn that says, “Just as I am, without one plea.” The song speaks of coming to God without hiding; this is simple honesty.

