

Well Said ...

God knows all the things you're terrified your enemies would find out and use against you, all the things that would horrify the people who think you decent, the things that you worry would cause the ones you care for to leave you, and yet he loves you anyway.

— Derek Rishmawy

Humility was an offensive characteristic for a god, in the eyes of early non-Christians. How could Christians worship a God who deliberately chose to share in human birth with all its mess and vulnerability and limitation, as well as a shameful death? How can we now worship a God to whom all the unimportant little details of our lives actually matter? How can we respect a God who takes us more seriously than we take ourselves, and yet is not impressed with all our accomplishments? Who loves us equally well, whether we succeed or fail? How could it really be that God simply disregards not only our education, our tastes, our productivity, our niceness, our worthiness in order to love us? God's greatness we can begin to approach. The sheer humility of God's love is incomprehensible.”

— Roberta C. Bondi, *To Love as God Loves*

But it is the grace of the Gospel, which is so hard for the pious to understand, that it confronts us with the truth and says: You are a sinner, a great, desperate sinner; now come, as the sinner that you are, to God who loves you. He wants you as you are; He does not want anything from you, a sacrifice, a work; He wants you alone. “My son, give me thine heart” (Prov. 23.26). God has come to you to save the sinner. Be glad! This message is liberation through truth. You can hide nothing from God. The mask you wear before men will do you no good before Him. He wants to see you as you are, He wants to be gracious to you. You do not have to go on lying to yourself and your brothers, as if you were without sin; you can dare to be a sinner. Thank God for that; He loves the sinner though He hates sin.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

Some days, you're tired of trying to measure up;
You see a girl who's not enough
When you look in the mirror.
Some nights, all you wanna do is hide,
'Cause every time you look inside,
You're face to face with failure.

But you are loved,
Not because of what you've done,
Even when your heart has run the other way,
Nothing's gonna change His love.
And you are wanted,
Not because you are perfect;
I know that you don't think you're worth that kind of grace,
But look into His face and you'll know
That you are loved...

— Ellie Holcomb, "You Are Loved"

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