

Drippings of Grace Ministries

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Title: To Those Who Have Been Hurt by the Church

Dear Church Family,

One of the most painful truths we must acknowledge is that the church—the very place meant to be a refuge of grace, healing, and truth—has sometimes been a source of deep hurt for people. Whether it was harsh words, judgmental attitudes, betrayal, or abuse of authority, these wounds are real, and they matter deeply to God.

If this has been your experience, I want to begin by saying: I'm sorry. As a pastor, I grieve over the ways we as the body of Christ have sometimes failed to reflect the heart of Jesus. You were never meant to be wounded in a place meant for your healing.

Jesus came to bind up the brokenhearted, to restore the bruised and weary. And He never looked away from people who had been cast aside by religious leaders or systems. He welcomed them. He saw them. He loved them.

If you carry wounds from the church, I hope you know this: your pain is valid, and your story matters. God is not indifferent to it. He's not distant from it. And healing is possible—not through denial or pretending it didn't happen, but through grace, truth, and love. The first step is honesty, and often the next step is community—safe, humble, Christ-centered community.

To our church family: let us be people who listen before we speak, who seek to understand before we assume. Let us be a place where those who've been hurt can find room to breathe, to heal, and to be gently restored. May we be known not for our perfection, but for our compassion.

To those who are still trying to find their way back: there is space for your questions, your pain, and your journey. You are not alone. And there is a place for you here.