



...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

-Romans 3:23-24

Most would agree that over the past 2,000 years, the most significant part of the church story was the Protestant Reformation. It was a challenge to the Church that people are not justified before God by their actions but by God's grace alone. One of many passages that supports this is Romans 3:23-24. We need to be aware of our sin in order to appreciate what God has done for us. This is important because we are masters at disguising our sin. If we are not aware of it, there's no way we get freedom from it.

Reflection:

Questions:

1. How long have you lived in the desert? If you're a native, what changes have you seen in terms of how Phoenicians make the desert look beautiful? If you're not from the desert, what was your first impression of Phoenix?
2. How would you summarize the Protestant Reformation in five sentences or less?
3. How does this week's foundational verse connect with the story of the Protestant Reformation? Can you identify other verses that were key to the 16th century reformers?
4. Without mentioning names... can you think of a struggle in someone's life where that person has redecorated sin so much that he or she no longer sees it as sin?
5. Would you say that you have the ability to lovingly speak the truth into other people's lives?
6. Would you say that you have the ability to hear that truth if someone spoke into your life?
7. Are you part of a healthy community of people that can share these things with one another?