

# ADDRESS THE MESS

## The Mess in the Mirror

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**Scripture:** Romans 3:19–20, 23

**Idea:** If you can see your mess, you can see God. To recognize one is to acknowledge the other.

**Know:** When we acknowledge our messes, we acknowledge a standard outside of us.

**Why:** This points to God and our accountability to him.

**Do:** Acknowledge that we do in fact mess up and are unable to measure up to ourselves, others, and God.

**Why:** It allows us to see others more compassionately and see our need for God more clearly.

### Introduction

1. Here's a phrase that's been around for a while: **hot mess**.
2. In the 1800s, a "hot mess" was a reference to food—especially food being served to soldiers (think "mess hall").
3. In the 1900s, it was used to describe a dangerous or unpleasant situation in a military context: "Do not raise your weapons, or this entire situation may turn into a hot mess."
4. In the 21st century, with the evolution of the term "hot," a hot mess now refers to "an attractive **disaster**": someone whose life is in obvious disarray but who somehow remains functional and attractive in spite of it. Which is our goal . . .

### I. "What mess?" you ask.

#### A. Our Messes:

1. Relational mess: dating, live-in, marriage
2. Family mess: kids, in-laws
3. Financial mess
4. Physical mess
5. Habit mess
  - A pastime turned out to be a pathway.
  - What started out as social has become secret.

#### B. You may be between messes right now.