



# Pathway Covenant

Breaking the Mirror: "Healed by Christ"

Who is this and what is she doing?



The question we'd all like answered



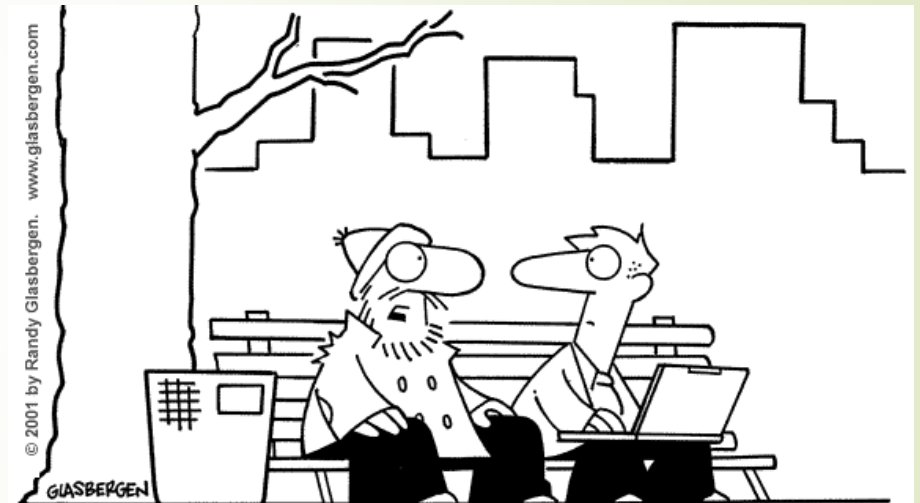
How do we measure up to the fairest of them all?



Are we smart enough and strong enough?




How about our kids-are they elite?  
How about our career- are we climbing?



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**“I spent years climbing the corporate ladder...and then I found out it was just scaffolding for the new headquarters.”**

What do I do when my relationships seem like the've failed or are failing?




I hate failure and that divorce was a Number One failure in my eyes. It was the worst period of my life. Neither Desi nor I have been the same since, physically or mentally.

(Lucille Ball)

ixquotes.com

Feel like a failure?  
hope for the messiness of

*motherhood*



www.themobsociety.com

If we're honest about our fears, failures, and brokenness, is this what we see in the mirror?

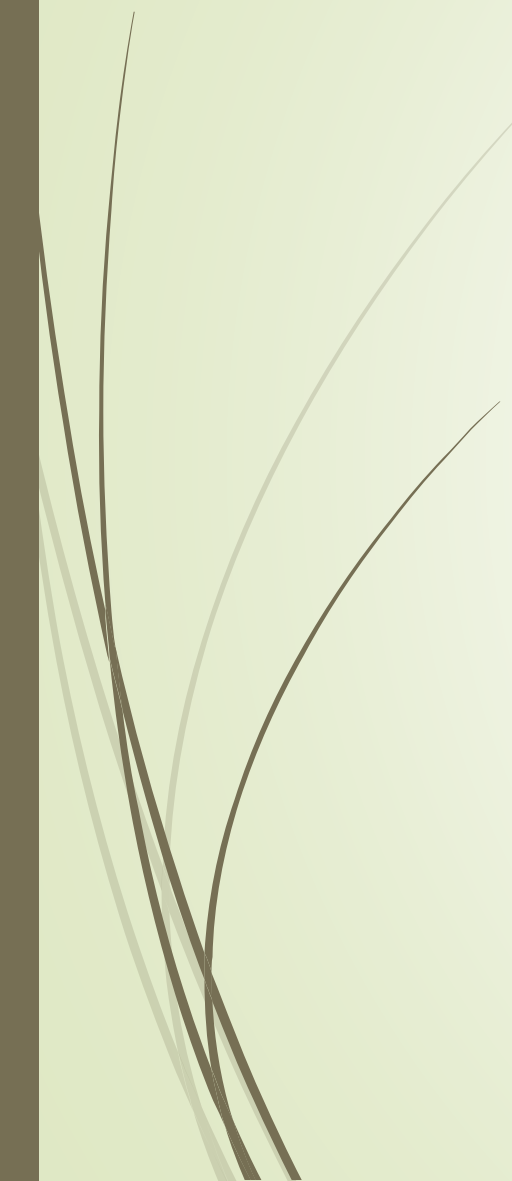






# Henri Nouwen

“Our lives are filled with brokenness-broken relationships, broken promises, broken expectations. How can we live with that brokenness without becoming bitter and resentful except by returning again and again to God’s faithful presence in our lives”





# Our mission

- ▶ Becoming disciples of Jesus, living our Gospel S.T.O.R.I.E.S in Covenant Community.
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# A covenant community

Pathway is a community of **imperfect people** completely tainted by sin and living in a world that is not the way it is supposed to be. Among the litter of failed, counterfeit plotlines we are finding shalom, life as it was designed to be in the Gospel, the Good News, that Jesus Christ is King. This hope binds us together to live in the particular way of Jesus **becoming more complete human beings whose fears, failures, and brokenness are healed by Christ**. We covenant with God and one another to intentionally enter our world to be God's agents of restoration working towards our future hope when God will restore all of creation. We are **bound together**, willingly committing and obligating ourselves to each other. Empowered by the Holy Spirit:

- We worship.
- We grow as disciples.
- We participate as agents in God's mission.



# Fear

- *“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. <sup>17</sup> This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” <sup>1</sup>*  
*John 4: 16-18*

- Fear follows from not feeling safe and expecting punishment, hardship, pain, acceptance, etc.
- We are healed from our fear when we embrace that God loves us as imperfect people who were pursued “while we were yet still sinners”



# Failure



- ▶ “My flesh and my heart may **fail**, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” Psalm 73:26
- ▶ “Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will **fail**. <sup>39</sup> But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.” Acts 5:38-39
- ▶ “<sup>15</sup> I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.” Acts 7:15
- ▶ “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,” Romans 8:1
- ▶ We fail in our own strength and when our purposes are for our own benefit
- ▶ In our flesh, we will always struggle to do what is right.
- ▶ We are healed when we embrace that in Christ we are not condemned.

# Brokenness

- “The LORD is close to the **brokenhearted** and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18.
- “The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the **brokenhearted**, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,<sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.”
- God is close to us in our brokenness even when we don’t always “feel” it.
- He both BINDS our brokenness and BESTOWS beauty, joy, and praise
- We are healed when we embrace these as gifts given.



# When we are healed we become something new

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:16-21

*16 "So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:[a] The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

- ▶ Our mirror changes and we see a new creation
- ▶ What we see changes how we view others – no longer as the world views them.
- ▶ We become ambassadors of the healing of Christ

# When we are healed, the world watches us dance!

- ▶ “You can tell that the younger gypsies think the old ones are absolutely beautiful, visibly beautiful, like movie stars. These old women sing in their scratchy crone voices of bottomless sadness, and they still dance...watching the old gypsy women most carefully, of course, are the children, the girl children” (Anne Lamont, 174)

