



# The Story of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15

Pew Bible Page # 1081

- The Pharisees were the religious leaders of Israel, and they didn't like these social outcasts coming to Jesus and having their lives changed. vs. 1-2
- They had an **exclusive religious circle** that was being threatened. There is a word for this.

## **Cliques – An age-old problem!**

- “Clique” means “a narrow exclusive circle or group of persons.”
- A thought-provoking passage – James 2:1-4.
- A biblical example – Luke 15:1-2.

## **Religious Cliques – “It’s all about us!”**

- Just as people can become self-absorbed, self-consumed, and cliquish, so can \_\_\_\_\_.
- What is the opposite of this mentality? It is the attitude that we are a church that exists for \_\_\_\_\_.  
Luke 14:12-13; Matthew 15:29-30; Philippians 2:4-8

## **The Prodigal’s Return – Breaking up the clique!**

- Should the attitude of the church today be the same as the father of the prodigal or the brother of the prodigal?

- When the sinful son returned home, what did the father do?
- The older brother was angry at the father and wanted nothing to do with the celebration. What really bothered him?

## **A Philippians 2:4 church – “We are a church that exists for others!”**

- *“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” Philippians 2:4*
- A church that exists for others has an attitude of profound hospitality and humility.
- What does a Philippians 2:4 church look like?
  - We welcome those who are \_\_\_\_\_ and without Jesus.
  - We welcome those who are saved, but \_\_\_\_\_ the local church.
  - We welcome those who are deemed \_\_\_\_\_ unacceptable.

The point of these parables is that the heart of Christ is to reach out and rescue those in need.

It's all about getting out of our religious cliques and showing the love of Christ to \_\_\_\_\_.



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