

# Our Churches SHOULD BE No-Shame ZONES

This article is from [Church Leaders.com](https://www.churchleaders.com) by **Rick Warren**, Senior Pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California.



Shame has no place in our churches; in fact, they should be no-shame zones.

*“And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ”*  
(Ephesians 4:32 HCSB).

Our world is broken; everything and everyone in this world is broken. In fact, there are only two kinds of people in the world: those who know they’re broken, and those who are broken but don’t know it. God wants us to know that we’re broken.

That’s why our churches should be no-shame zones, places for broken people to come when they hurt.

Colossians 3:12 says, *“As God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience”* (NIV). Because we know how much God loves us, we can demonstrate compassion, kindness, humility and patience with others. That’s exactly what the church has been called to do. It’s the place for the broken, the place for those whose lives don’t work out as they should.

The truth is that the church shouldn’t just “accept” hurting people. We should want hurting people in our midst. We’ve got to realize that every sinner has a future and every saint has a past.





Recovery ministries (like [Celebrate Recovery](#) at Saddleback) aren't a sideline show in the church; they're at the core of what Jesus calls the church to do and to be. We've all got hurts, habits and hang-ups that we need God to transform. God wants to use the church to do that.

That means since you're the church, He wants to use **you**.

God wants us to be people of the second chance. But we can't be second-chance people until we realize how much of a second chance we've been given. Too many Christians don't feel forgiven—so they don't let anyone else feel forgiven either.

When we realize how much grace God showed to us when He saved us, sharing that kind of grace with others will only be natural. The Bible says in Ephesians 4:32, *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as God forgave you through Christ."*

Second chances aren't just for addicts and convicts; second chances are for all of us. No matter how squeaky-clean our lives have looked on the outside, the Bible is clear that we've all needed a second chance at some point in our lives.

In fact, it's when we realize how much God loves us and has forgiven us that we're able to properly take that love to others. The people who are best able to show God's love to others are the ones who feel God's love the most fully.

Dr. Rick Warren is passionate about attacking what he calls the five "Global Goliaths" — spiritual emptiness, egocentric leadership, extreme poverty, pandemic disease, and illiteracy/poor education. His goal is a second Reformation by restoring responsibility in people, credibility in churches, and civility in culture. He is a pastor, global strategist, theologian, and philanthropist. He's been often named "America's most influential spiritual leader" and "America's Pastor."

Note: Be sure to check out the Wellness article entitled *Freedom From Condemnation*

