

## A Leadership Tool That Changed My Life

This simple tool can give you clarity and hope in all your key relationships. Some leaders tell us this tool changed their entire worldview—the way they viewed God, themselves, others, sin, conflict, and relationships.

In this life, we who belong to Jesus, have two constants. Two unchanging realities. We will always confront sin issues and we will always have the identity God gave us. They are represented in the two lines below.

Working on My Sin Issues →

Trusting Who God Says I Am →

Here's the key question: *Which of these two constants define my life focus?* From which line do I launch my day? Which is my starting line? Which line offers me the hope of experiencing the other line?

### How's That Working For You?

If you're like most Christians, you opt for starting with the top line—working hard on your sin issues so your circumstances will help you believe that you are the saint God says you are. You believe you are striving to become something you're not yet: godly or righteous, represented by the bottom line. If you have tried this for a few years, you will have noticed that you rarely, if ever, experienced the joy of the bottom line. But, if you start with the bottom line, actually believing who God says you are, a saint who sins, you will experience unparalleled transformation regarding your sin issues in the top line.

### Counterintuitive Living

Few Christian leaders understand and live by the truth of the bottom line, because, like numerous biblical truths, it is counterintuitive. And, they, like us, have been fed a sin management system, which always starts from the top line. See, it appears that if you were really serious about your sin issues, you'd start on the top line, working on your issues with all the sold-out commitment possible so you could become “godly” and live up to your identity. Just the opposite is true. Starting with the top line working down is taking sin lightly. Starting by trusting who God says you are is the only way to take sin seriously.

### Who Needs A Savior?

If you start with the top line and go down, you become your own “savior,” but moving from the bottom line you invite Jesus to be the Savior. (Remember, you became a Christian in the first place by finally admitting you couldn't do anything about your sin. Nothing has changed about that—you still need a Savior)

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### **Going Down on the Titanic**

The top line becomes a law-driven effort, while launching from the bottom line is a grace-driven experience. The top line depends on your power, which is like no power, the bottom line depends on God's power. Self-effort versus God's effort.

If you start with the top line you will get hopelessly tangled up in trying to sin less, in sin-management. Welcome to failure. It's like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic so you can get a better view as the ship goes down. Launch from trusting who God says you are and you'll replace sin-management with sin atonement. You will love more and sin less.

### **Using This Tool In Your Leadership**

I use this tool repeatedly in my life and with others. It can free many you counsel, mentor, or lead. (If you want more help with this tool, see our study guide, *TrueFaced Experience*)