

About...

Show me your perfect love

...how and why it was written

We call this the good girl song. Although of course it's more widely relevant than just to me and the three or four of my friends who have gravitated around this label.

Who is the good girl? Well, she shares something in common with the older brother in the parable of the prodigal son. But she's less resentful, and more fearful... she always tries to get it right – for her friends, her family... and for her God. She tries so hard, but she feels like she never quite makes it. She's an achiever, a server, an all-rounder, and a closet perfectionist... and somehow, though no one quite knows how when she's been surrounded by the truth for so long, she understands fear and law better than grace.

This worship song came out of me as a heart-cry during a particularly difficult time where I felt my whole identity squeezed around these issues. It has resonated with a lot of people, particularly those from similar backgrounds - the good news is that we're all on journeys of transformation so we're learning to be grace girls (and boys!) instead.

...how, where and when it could be used

This song can work well in corporate worship, particularly in response to a relevant sermon. It also supports ministry times and more reflective response singing times well.

...its place on the journey to where world and worship meet

I think this one is about honesty and a realisation that we are all broken. For all the suffering and injustice in the world, I can find no one who needs God more than I do.

Jesus hung out with prostitutes and tax collectors rather than religious people. I don't think this was because he found these 'scandalous' people more loveable or interesting. I don't even think it was because he believed they needed him more. I think it was because they were desperate for their lives to change; desperate for freedom. The poor are called blessed. But I don't think it's because they're poor. I think it's because they know they are.

I want to be a mature Christian – I want to learn more, love more, and have more impact for good. but I don't ever want to let this progress tempt me to look at myself like I've arrived, and deceive myself into believing I have no brokenness, or am somehow different to the people I'm praying for.

David Ruis (as ever) puts it well in various teachings and writings when he talks about ministering with the poor, not ministering to them. Food for thought.