

Bridging the Gap

The Embassy Church - Small Group Notes – Sunday, September 1, 2019

Do you see a gap between what you say you believe, and your day to day life experience? The Bible talks about peace, joy, and abundant life. But are we really living it, or is there more? How do we connect the truth of what God says about us to our everyday lives? Let's bridge the gap.

Be blessed!
Aimee Chada

Christ came to rescue His original plan of creation – us – being one with Him.

Scriptures – All Scriptures - The Passion Translation

Ephesians 1:3-6

³ Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm has already been lavished upon us as a love gift from our wonderful heavenly Father, the Father of our Lord Jesus—all because he sees us wrapped into Christ. This is why we celebrate him^[a] with all our hearts! ⁴ And he chose us to be his very own, joining us to himself even before he laid the foundation of the universe!^[b] Because of his great love, he ordained^[c] us, so that we would be seen as holy in his eyes with an unstained innocence.

⁵⁻⁶ For it was always in his perfect plan^[d] to adopt^[e] us as his delightful children, through our union with Jesus, the Anointed One, so that his tremendous love that cascades over us would glorify his grace^[f]—for the same love he has for his Beloved One, Jesus, he has for us. And this unfolding plan brings him great pleasure!

Colossians 1:26-27

²⁶ There is a divine mystery—a secret surprise that has been concealed from the world for generations, but now it's being revealed, unfolded and manifested for every holy believer to experience. ²⁷ Living within you is the Christ who floods you with the expectation of glory! This mystery of Christ, embedded within us, becomes a heavenly treasure chest of hope filled with the riches of glory for his people, and God wants everyone to know it!

Romans 5:1-5

Our faith in Jesus transfers God's righteousness to us and he now declares us flawless in his eyes.^[a] This means we can now enjoy true and lasting peace^[b] with God, all because of what our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One, has done for us. ² Our faith guarantees us permanent access into this marvelous kindness^[c] that has given us a perfect relationship with God. What incredible joy bursts forth within us as we keep on celebrating our hope of experiencing God's glory!

³ But that's not all! Even in times of trouble we have a joyful confidence, knowing that our pressures will develop in us patient endurance. ⁴ And patient endurance will refine our character, and proven character leads us back to hope. ⁵ And this hope is not a disappointing fantasy,^[d] because we can now experience the endless love of God cascading into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who lives in us!

Ephesians 3:14-19

¹⁴ So I kneel humbly in awe before the Father of our Lord Jesus, the Messiah, ¹⁵ the perfect Father of every father and child^[a] in heaven and on the earth. ¹⁶ And I pray that he would unveil within you the unlimited riches of his glory and favor until supernatural strength floods your innermost being with his divine might and explosive power.

¹⁷ Then, by constantly using your faith, the life of Christ will be released deep inside you, and the resting place of his love will become the very source and root of your life.

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Then you will be empowered to discover what every holy one experiences—the great magnitude^[b] of the astonishing love of Christ in all its dimensions. How deeply intimate and far-reaching is his love! How enduring and inclusive it is! Endless love beyond measurement that transcends our understanding—this extravagant love pours into you until you are filled to overflowing with the fullness of God!

Romans 6:3-7

³ Or have you forgotten that all of us who were immersed into union with Jesus, the Anointed One, were immersed into union with his death?

⁴ Sharing in his death by our baptism means that we were co-buried and entombed with him, so that when the Father's glory raised Christ from the dead, we were also raised with him. We have been co-resurrected with him so that we could be empowered to walk in the freshness of new life. ⁵ For since we are permanently grafted into him^[a] to experience a death like his, then we are permanently grafted into him to experience a resurrection like his and the new life that it imparts.

⁶ Could it be any clearer^[b] that our former identity^[c] is now and forever deprived of its power? For we were co-crucified with him to dismantle the stronghold of sin within us,^[d] so that we would not continue to live one moment longer submitted to sin's power.^[e]

⁷ Obviously, a dead person is incapable of sinning.

The Gospel does not tell us how lost we are, it tells us how loved we are.

Main Points:

1. Discovering Your True Identity
2. Filling in the Gaps
 - a. There can be a gap between what we know the Bible says about God and what our lives can be like when we have a relationship with Him AND what I actually experience in daily life.
3. More than Just Doing
 - a. This happens because we become Christians and then get busy doing Christian things. But this confuses our true identity in Him.
 - b. We believe lies that we earn approval with God or that God is far from us.
 - c. Understanding our union with Christ is what bridges the gap.
4. Union with Christ
 - a. Jesus restored our oneness with God once and for all.
 - b. Your old identity of sin, power of the devil and religious works no longer exists. Your new identity is Christ.

When we are one in Christ, no one sees us, they see Christ.

Digging Deeper:

Revelation

- Just because sometimes our true identity is hidden, can we discover our true identity?
- How do we sometimes try too *hard* to be a Christian, and do the right thing?

God in me, means I have everything I already need.

Interpretation

- What journey is involved in discovering our true identity?
- What do we know we should do as Christians?
- How do we try to do good things?
- How do we *renew* our minds?

Application

- Where do you discover your identity?
- Are there mindset adjustments you need to make in order to discover your true identity in Christ?
- Do you need to *renew your mind* and take every thought to captive to Christ Jesus?

We are not doing to become... we are being to receive what was already done.
