

INSIDE THE CIRCLE

SERMON-BASED QUESTIONS

MAY 14 + MAY 15, 2022

MY STORY

1. What is something you are most proud of in your life? It could be something you accomplished or a moment. What made it so great?
2. When you were younger, either as a teenager or in your early 20's, what were some of your biggest struggles?

IN REVIEW

Last week, you were encouraged to examine your life and look for areas in which you could have influence that you don't currently. What came to mind? Were there any specifics on what that influence could look like? (workplace, home, sports, school, hobbies, neighborhood, ministry, etc.)

DIGGING DEEPER

3. Throughout this sermon series called *Inside The Circle*, we have been learning that we have already won—that through Jesus, we are victorious! And yet, we may not always feel as if we've won. What hinders us from truly enjoying and walking in the victory?
4. As Pastor John said, "We all have a sinful appetite." In light of this, read Romans 5:12 and answer the question below.
 - a. Paul is saying the disease of sin came from a single source: Adam. How has the sin of Adam affected his descendants to this day?
5. Our relationship to sin is very complicated. As a follower of Christ, our ties to sin have changed. Read Romans 6:1-14 and answer the following questions.
 - a. What stands out to you most in these verses and why?

- b. If we are “dead to sin”, how is it that we, as Christians, still are tempted and still sin?
 - c. Reread verses 13-14. What is the choice given here? What does it look like to offer yourself to God?
6. For a more in depth look at who we were, who we are now, and the choices we have, read Colossians 3:5-14 and answer the following questions.
- a. Paul uses the analogy of clothing—taking off and putting on. What is the contrast between “clothes” of earthly nature (v. 5-11) and “clothes” of God’s chosen people (v. 12-14)?
 - b. How have you seen a change in your “clothing” since following Jesus?
 - c. Do you see putting on the “clothes” of our humanity/earthly nature and that of God’s Kingdom a choice? Explain.
 - d. Which aspects of Christ’s character do you need to clothe yourself in more? What are practical ways you can do that?
7. Pastor John spoke of the choice we have when it comes to sin. He compared it to an extension cord. We have a choice as to which cord we plug into. We can give power to our old selves or to who we are in Jesus. What goes into your decision as you “plug into” either cord?

CALL TO ACTION | INFLUENCE: So often, we focus on failures and defeats which hinders us, or distracts us, from confidently running and enjoying our victory lap. This week, take notice of when you are maximizing the failures or defeats, then pivot and tap into the power Jesus has given you over sin. Either write down, or take mental note, of how often you are choosing God’s will over that of our sinful nature.

TAKING IT HOME

This is boots to the ground. How will you practically (and actually) put the “Call To Action” section(s) from above into practice this week?