

Lasting change- August 25, 2024

I. Introduction-

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself. II Corinthians 5:17

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. II Corinthians 5:21

Genuine; being real, actually, authentic, not false, fake or counterfeit

Change; to become different

A. Today is based on two presuppositions that were presented in the first two weeks

1. We have been born again and are seeking to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ-

If we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. Romans 6:5

He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Mathew 22:37

2. God's inspired words will equip us for every good work-

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. II Timothy 3:16

I delight in the law of God, in my inner being. Romans 7:22

Immutable; cannot be changed

Inerrant; completely accurate, without errors

Authoritative; the power to command and to be obeyed, whose will and commands must be submitted to and obeyed

3. Making lasting changes in our lives will be uncomfortable and even painful -

Be subject to the Father of spirits and live? He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:9

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. Jam 1:2

B. The good news- God says that we can make lasting changes and we can be more like Jesus

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. I Corinthians 10:13

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. I Thessalonians 5:23

II. What is our plan for making lasting changes in our life?

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty. Proverbs 21:5

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to **put off** your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be **renewed in the spirit of your minds**, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:17

Identifiable--- doable --- measurable

A. how to know what change to make?

1. Ask God in prayer and listen-

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Mathew 7:7

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! Psalms 139:23

He who has ears to hear, let him hear. Mathew 11:15

Daily heart check-

<https://cdn.subsplash.com/documents/74GPWZ/source/75f7fae3-8cb0-4731-a05b-0d0cb434c39c/document.pdf>

2. Listen while reading or hearing God's word-

Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:11

3. Look at our fruit for pain, strife, and correction from God and others-

"For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, 44 for each tree is known by its own fruit. Luke 6:43

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22

B. Be renewed in the spirit of our mind -

Be renewed in the spirit of your minds. Ephesians 4:23

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Psalms 119:9

Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit. Ephesians 6:17
<https://biblicalcounselingcenter.org/put-off-put-on/>

C. Focus on the part of Jesus we are putting on not the bad we are taking off-

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8

D. Don't quit- change takes time and there will be challenges

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. Hebrews 12:1

III. Why do we want to change and put on new behavior?

A. What motivated us to make lasting changes and to become more like Jesus?

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:3
He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Mathew 22:37

B. The real damage of sin and the cost of sin to Jesus and others-

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Psalms 51:3

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. I Peter 2:24

For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. Romans 3:23

Propitiation; hilastērion. an expiatory sacrifice put forward to, to extinguish the guilt incurred

Repent; *metanoō*, to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins

C. Know the cost to God for loving us-

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. II Corinthians 5:19

You, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:13

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IV. Communion and celebration –

A. Jesus invited us to remember and to celebrate-

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. John 13:12

On the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. I Corinthians 11:23

B. Examine ourselves to see if we are fully devoted follower of Jesus-

Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. I Corinthians 11:28

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct." Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. I Peter 1:4

Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27

Disciple; mathētēs. a learner, pupil, disciple