



**Amazing
(Sanctifying Grace)**
Sermon 4 – Pastor Kevin
October 30, 2022

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

Romans 12:1-2

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice – the kind he will find acceptable. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

WARM-UP

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?
- At the end of the sermon Pastor Kevin told a story of a childhood friend who experienced a fair amount of bullying. The boy's father went with him to confront the bullies. Pastor Kevin shared how the boy's posture and confidence changed when his father was with him. How might our spiritual confidence and posture change if we realized that the same God who saves us also stands with us on our spiritual journey?

(Below you will find the main points of this week's sermon along with discussion questions. Feel free to use, reword, or omit questions depending on the needs of your group and the time needed for prayer, care, and fellowship. Thank you for your leadership.)

Thought #1 – Recognize that life is complicated and we need help!

Verses: Romans 7:21-25, John 14:26

- Pastor Kevin said, "We become very aware that our hearts are conflicted. We find ourselves with divided hearts. Our selfish desires and our desires to please God are sharing the same space." He told of a time in his life when he shared a small apartment with three other roommates and how complicated that would get.
 - Read Romans 7:21-25.
 - How have you experienced the coexistence of right and wrong desires in your own heart and life?
 - What does that battle typically look like for you?
 - How does John 14:26 help?

Thought #2 – God invites us to a change of power and authority in our hearts!

Verses: Romans 8:7-9a, Romans 12:1-2

- Tell of a time in your life when learning and knowing better helped you make better and different choices?
- Pastor Kevin said, "You are trusting God to lead you on a path that transforms you out of the old and into the new!" This is a brand-new way of thinking that leads to a new life. In what ways does Jesus help change our thinking? Make a list of ways: "Jesus helps change our thinking from _____ to _____."
- Is there a pattern of thinking that you believe you, your family, our culture, or the church is trapped in presently? What do you think Jesus is trying to change about our thinking in this area?

Thought #3 – Change comes through a decision to lean fully in to this relationship!

Verses: Romans 12:1, Philippians 1:5, 2 Corinthians 5:17, John 10:10

- Sanctifying grace is a work that Jesus does in us. Pastor Kevin said, "If we believe that God initiates the awareness of changes needed, then He is also initiating an invitation to trust Him to help us with it. God wouldn't start something in you that He couldn't finish! In fact, he is inviting you into something that you are powerless to accomplish on your own. This is His Work!"
 - Read this out-loud to the group again. How does knowing that we are powerless to bring about the changes that are needed in our lives

- Why is it so important for us to understand our powerlessness?
- How should an understanding of our powerlessness affect our posture towards Jesus?

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