This is Us: Becoming Christlike

Pastor Kevin Donoho January 21, 2024

Opening Discussion

• What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

College Church's Mission

To Lead every generation into a growing relationship with Jesus so that all may experience God's goodness and grace.

Core Value #1:

We are a blended family: We are a diverse family with unique backgrounds and stories that God has brought together. We want everyone to experience the belonging that comes with being a part of the family of God.

Core Value #2

We Cultivate Christlikeness: We choose to surrender our lives to be continually shaped by Christ so that we might become more and more like Him. We believe He first changes our hearts, which then changes our behavior.

Thought #1: We Choose Dependence on Christ

Romans 12:1-2

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you <u>to give</u> your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 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."

As you reflect on the passage above, consider these questions:

How does the concept of offering our bodies as living sacrifices relate to worshiping God? In what ways can you avoid conforming to the behavior and customs of the world on a daily basis? What does this look like in practical ways in your daily life? Where do you see evidence of being transformed by God?

Consecration means to be separated from the world. To be set apart and dedicated to Him. As you hear this word, what does consecration mean to you? How does it connect with the idea of God shaping and changing our lives? Share examples of areas in your life where you have experienced consecration.

When you think of choosing dependence on Christ over independence (or rather, dependence on something other than Him), what does this mean to you? How do you choose this daily? Where do you struggle with choosing dependence on God the most? What are you tempted to depend on instead?

As you reflect on your own experiences, recall either in the past or present, instances where you faced critical moments of choosing God's will over your own. What impact did those choices have on your spiritual journey? How can we encourage one another to make choices aligned with God's will?

Thought #2: We Are Continually Shaped

Galatians 5:25

"Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."

James 1:22-25

"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it." How does the idea of being continually shaped by the Spirit resonate with your understanding of spiritual growth? What feelings or thoughts does this idea bring? Have there been moments when the Spirit has made you aware of things you were holding onto and needed to surrender? Consider sharing these with your group. How do you practically follow the Spirit's leading in various aspects of your life?

Pastor Kevin shared how the Word of God is like a mirror. An invitation to look deeper, to come near, to trust, and then to take action. Discuss this metaphor of the Word of God as a mirror. How does it personally serve as an invitation for self-reflection and spiritual examination? Share personal experiences where the Word of God revealed something in your life that needed attention and adjustment. How can this community of believers support you in the process of trusting and surrendering to the Spirit?

Thought #3: Experience Change

1 Corinthians 12:12-21

"He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less."

Pastor Kevin reminded us that the desire to see change in your life (thoughts, emotions, behavior) starts in the heart. Discuss that statement. How have you experienced God's work creating a desire within you to become the person He envisions?

Explore the difference between the "Behave, Believe, Belong" and "Belong, Believe, Behave" approaches within the context of the church. How might the order of these three words impact one's spiritual journey? How have these impacted your spiritual journey? Share your thoughts on how creating a space for people to belong first can influence their beliefs and behaviors.

Pastor Kevin reminded us that if we keep our focus on Jesus and allow His grace to nurture us, we will see opportunities for growth in our relationships with Him. Share ways you can maintain a focus on Jesus amid life's challenges and distractions. Consider creating ways to encourage one another in the coming weeks to keep this focus.

Questions for Pastor Todd Keller or Julie Burch regarding your REMIX group?

 Email: Todd <u>tkeller@collegechurch.com</u> Julie <u>groups@collegechurch.com</u>

***Remember to record your attendance for the week. Thank you.

How can we pray for each other this week?