

## **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 to give 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 worshipping 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."

