

Masterpiece (part 1) – 1/9/22

Pastor Rick: The Me I am Meant to Be

Message Summary:

Am I becoming all that God desires me to be?

Ephesians 2:10 NLT

Definition of masterpiece = A work of outstanding artistry, skill, or workmanship

You are his Masterpiece!

We are the only thing in all creation that is made in His image!

Your life is not your project—Your life is God's project!

Psalms 92:12-13

Flourishing is God's gift and plan. When you flourish, you are in harmony with God, with others, with creation, and with yourself.

"Shalom" of God

2 Corinthians 5:17

God never discards your raw material! He just wants to redirect it! God is in the business of redeeming and renewing this world and his creation!

This series is about helping us become all that we were meant to be as God's masterpiece! A transformed people through Christ, but not just for ourselves, but for a world waiting for God's redemption!

"In the first two centuries of the church, it was not Christian worship that attracted outsiders, it was Christians who attracted them, and outsiders found Christians attractive because of their lives. The best witness we have as a church is not our programs but our transformed lives."

If you truly want to be the best version of you for 2022, the "masterpiece" God desires, you will have to come to grips with "counterfeits" who try to trap you into being something you were never meant to be.

Counterfeit #1: The you, that you pretend to be!

Inside of us is a person without pretense or guile. We never have to pretend with God, and genuine brokenness pleases God more than pretend spirituality.

Counterfeit #2: The you, you think you should be!

“Spiritual greatness has nothing to do with being greater than others. It has everything to do with being as great as each of us can be.” Henri Nouwen

Counterfeit #3: The me, that other people want me to be!

Counterfeit #4: The me that I am afraid that God wants!

2 Corinthians 3:6 NLT

John 10:10

Spiritual Formation is the process by which your inner self and character are being shaped.

How is your spiritual life going?

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you find it difficult to think of yourself as God’s masterpiece? Share why or why not.
2. *Look at Ephesians 2:10.* What does God desire you to be? Are you becoming this description?
3. Based on what you know about the Bible and the teachings of Jesus, how might “flourishing” be described in the Psalms (particularly Psalm 92:12-13) be different than our culture’s definition of flourishing?
4. *Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.* God wants you to be a new creation, but that does not mean completely different! You don’t just become more holy, you become more --- “you-ier!” How does this idea interact with any previous ideas on the meaning of this passage?
5. Share your thoughts on this quote: “In the first two centuries of the church, it was not Christian worship that attracted outsiders, it was Christians who attracted them, and outsiders found the Christians attractive because of their lives. The best witness we have as a church is not our programs but our transformed lives.”

6. In order to be the best version of you for 2022, which is what God desires, you will have to come to grips with “counterfeits.” These false versions try to trap you into being something you were never meant to be. Some counterfeits include:
- The you, that you pretend to be.
 - The you, that you think you should be.
 - The me, that other people want me to be.
 - The me, that I am afraid that God wants

Which of these is the counterfeit that you struggle with the most? Why?

7. What is your understanding of “life to the full” described by Jesus in John 10:10? How is your spiritual life going? Maybe answer in terms of the gauge on your vehicle’s gas tank. Based on what Pastor Rick shared, how might you need to change?