

SUNDAY SERMON QUOTES OCTOBER 7, 2018

“Nothing is more obvious than the need for change. Nothing is less obvious than what needs to change and how change happens!” – Tim Lane & Paul David Tripp

Too often we identify the wrong catalyst for change. We think if _____ (circumstances, behavior, thinking, self-concept) changes, we will change.

“Pride says, ‘The problem is outside of me.’ Pride says, ‘The problem is in me, but I have the strength or ability to master it.’ Pride says, ‘I can fix this with enough knowledge.’ Pride says, ‘What’s wrong with me is that I don’t love me enough.’”

At its heart, legalism is about self-justification. It says, “I did _____, therefore, God loves, accepts and responds to me.” Legalism happens when we say *what we need to do* is as important as what Jesus has done. Legalism says what I do is the primary catalyst for transformation in my life, not what Christ has done.

Jesus + X looks spiritual. But it isn’t.

We cannot add up enough spiritual negatives to get a spiritual positive.

Because your spiritual fullness is found in Christ, don’t let anyone impose on you a plan for spiritual development (i.e., change, transformation) that doesn’t have Jesus at the center of the plan.

“The great mistake made by people is hoping to discover in themselves [or their performance] what is only found in Christ alone.” – A.W. Pink

“Grace runs counter to human pride and that impulse we all feel to boast in our own accomplishments.” – Sam Storms

Someone once told me, “Sometimes I need something more practical to do in response to God’s Word than simply ‘believe the Gospel’. No, you don’t. Looking to Jesus (who He is, what He’s done) is always the starting point and primary focus of spiritual growth and obedience to God.

“We think with our feelings” (Sinclair Ferguson) and that’s a huge problem.

“Most of our unhappiness in life is due to the fact you are listening to yourself rather than talking to yourself.” – Martin Lloyd Jones

How do we believe the gospel in a way that leads to change?

- By faith, believing our sanctification (becoming holy) also happens by faith.
- By identifying and confessing and forsaking where we struggle.
- By identifying gospel truths to speak over our hearts.
- By sowing the Spirit (through the Word, prayer, community, worship, service and hope)