



Week 3- "United with Christ"

At the beginning of a New Year we tend to look at the areas of our lives that we want to change and grow in. We seem to know that there are areas in our life that need to change. In this week's message we explore what Christianity teaches, not about how we can change ourselves, but how we can lean into how God changes us.

1. Have you ever bumped into a moralistic message that says if you are a Christian you better do right, stop sinning, and change? If so, How did that message make you feel?
2. What problems have you bumped into when you have tried to live a perfect Christian life?

Read John 14:16-20

Christianity teaches that when we put our faith in Jesus, He enters us and changes us at a foundational level. His righteousness fuses with us and makes us Holy.

3. Do you struggle to grow and change? If so, in what ways would you say you are trusting in self effort over God's grace?
4. What do you think it practically looks like to trust God's grace?

Read 1 Peter 1:1-4

4. Christ's Spirit gives you the desire and power to please God and do the right thing. How does this truth impact the way you view personal growth and change?

Christianity teaches that when you despair of self and collapse into Him, everything that is true of Christ becomes true of you because He is in you, and you are fused with Him.

- **You are justified- made just as if you had never sinned. Romans 5:1**
- **You are sanctified- made Holy. 1 Corinthians 1:2**
- **You are adopted- as children of God. Romans 8:15-17**
- **You are reconciled to God- not estranged from God because Christ is not estranged and He is in you. Romans 5:10-11**
- **You are washed clean. Titus 3:4-6**

5. What would your day to day life look like as you trust Christ in you and believe that in Him these things are true of you?

6. Is there anything in your life that keeps you from collapsing into grace and trusting the Christ in you? If so, what step can you take this week to trust that Christ has made you new?

When we despair of self and collapse into God's grace, Christ enters our lives and we are fused with Him. Gospel-centered Christianity teaches that our sinful nature loses its power, and though our human nature is still there we are no longer slaves to it. Christ in us allows us to abandon self effort and trust that who He says we are is true.