



Week 1- “Die Trying or Try Dying”

So much was shaken in 2020. Churches closed down and most people had their normal habits disrupted, making it difficult to navigate faith and live it out. As we begin 2021, what does it look like to be a Christian in today’s world? We live in a culture where there are so many versions, ideas, and interpretations of what a Christian is supposed to be, and so often Christians do not look anything like Jesus. Jesus taught us what a Christian looks like and in this series we want to look at what He taught.

1. There are people who do not want anything to do with Christianity because of how Christians act. Have you seen this in your own life? Has this been your experience?
2. As we have navigated through this unexpected season in our world over the last year, how have you seen Christians respond? How have you seen Christians treat others?
3. Do you think simply trying to live like Christ is enough to achieve the goal of looking like a good Christian?

Read Colossians 2:11-13, and 20-23

4. Discuss the idea that if we try to be a Christian by loving like Jesus, serving, giving, and having good Christian character our efforts will always be tainted by our broken human nature. True Christianity starts with dying. What does that mean to you?

Read Galatians 2:20-21

Real Christianity does not start with trying to be like Jesus, it starts with dying. “My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God.” This is the foundation of Christianity. What is a Christian? A Christian is dead.

5. As humans we are naturally all about ourselves. Why is a version of Christianity that is tainted by a self-centered agenda so unattractive to others?
6. When you are dead to your self-centered agenda it puts Christ as the foundation of your faith and life. How does trusting Jesus to do in you what you can't do free you from "trying" to be like Jesus?

Colossians 1:25-27 says, "God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you. This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory."

7. What should a Christian look like? Someone who does not live for themselves, their politics, their comfort, or their agenda. A Christian allows Christ to live in and through them. What do you think it means to allow Christ to live in and through you?

8. This week will you ask yourself: *am I dead?* As you process this question will you also recognize that you do not have what it takes to be like Christ, and surrender to Jesus to make you more like Him?

If Christianity starts with dying, how do we die? Over the next few weeks, we will discover what a dead Christian, a Christian with Christ living in them looks like. We must recognize that this is a daily journey with Jesus. Dying to our self-centered broken human nature is something God does in us. We can recognize that we do not have what it takes to be like Christ, and we can daily surrender to Him.