God of captives and pilgrims,
have mercy on us your servants,
deliver us from the prison of selfishness and sin,
and bring us home to justice, sharing,
and compassion, the realm you promised
all the world in Jesus Christ the Savior.
Amen.



OPENING PRAYER

The Story of the People of God
ORDINARY TIME
JUN. JUL. AUG. SEP. OCT. NOV.

THE GOOD/BEAUTIFUL YOU

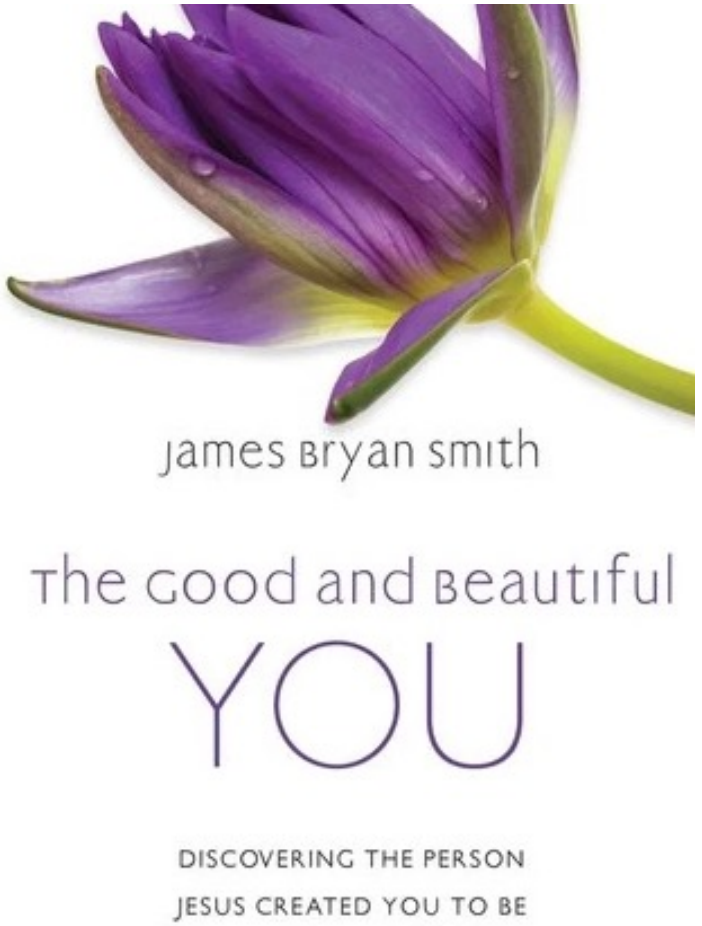
You Have a ***Soul*** and a ***Sacred Body***

You Are ***Desired*** and ***Loved***

You Are ***Made for God***

You Are ***Forgiven,*** Have Been Made ***Alive,*** and Are ***Holy***

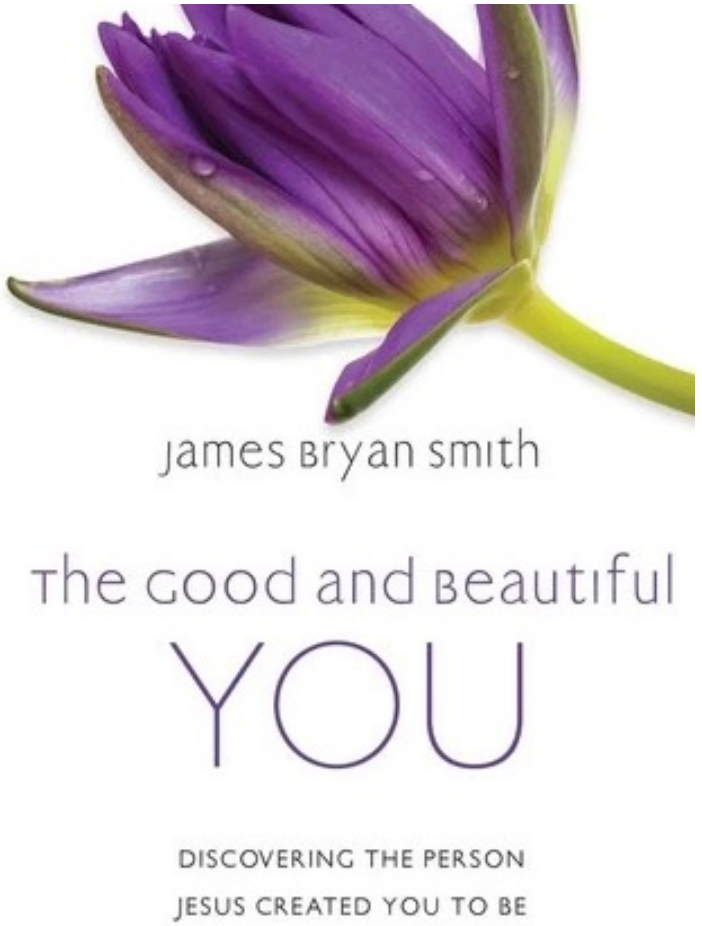
You Have a ***Sacred Story,*** You Are ***Called,*** and You Will Be ***Glorified***



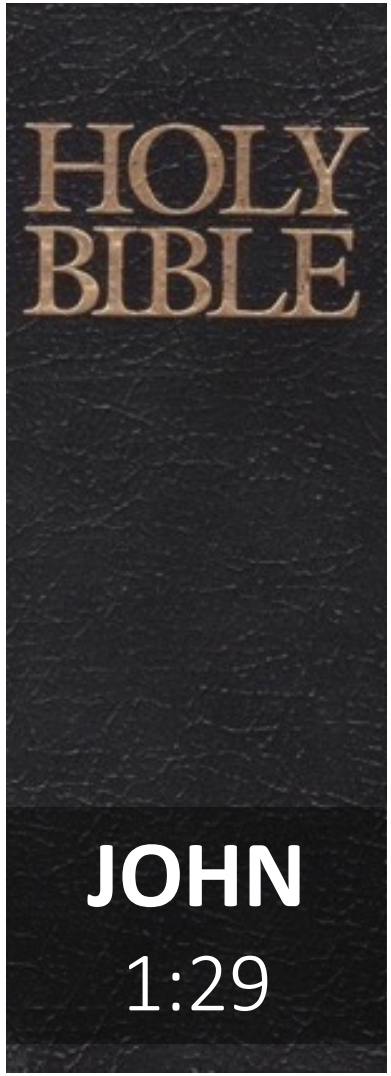
PART 1: YOU ARE FORGIVEN

The Finality of the Cross

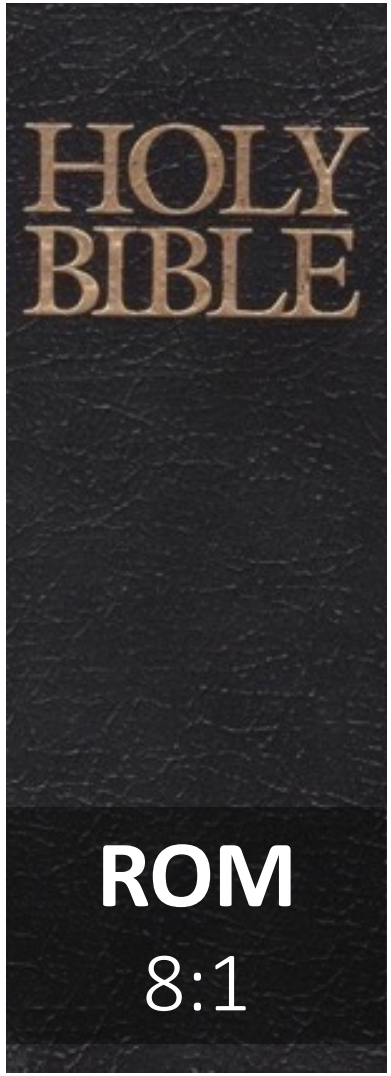
- Hebrews 7:27 ***Once for all…***
- Hebrews 9:12 ***Once for all…***
- Hebrews 9:26 ***Once for all…***
- Hebrews 10:2 ***Once for all…***
- Hebrews 10:10 ***Once for all…***



*Behold, the Lamb of God, who **takes away** the sins of the world!*

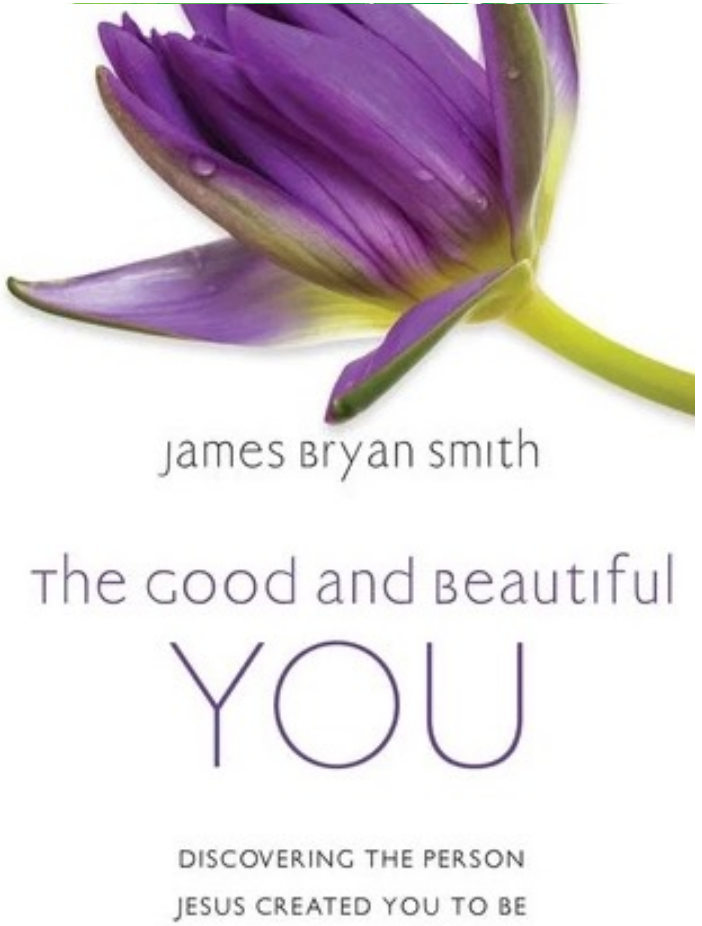


There is, therefore, no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus…



FALSE NARRATIVE

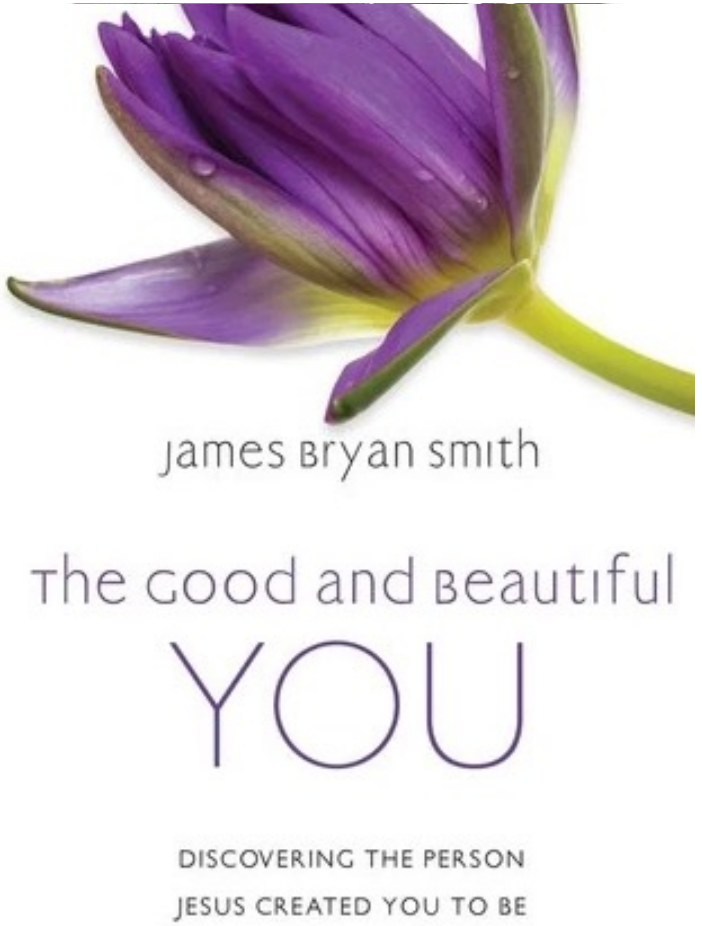
You are only forgiven
for the sins you confess



FALSE NARRATIVE

You are only forgiven
for the sins you confess

- What if I die before…?!
- What if I miss one?!
- What if I don't say/do it right?!

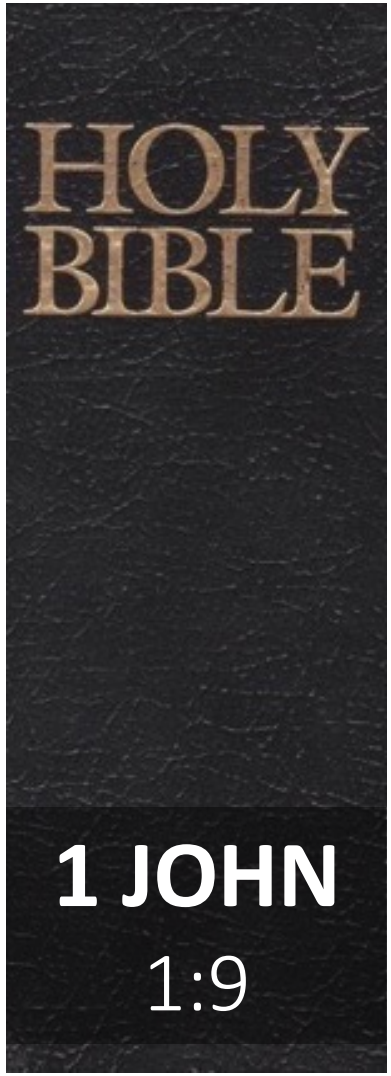


SCRUPULOSITY

(often called religious OCD or moral OCD) is a subtype of OCD, characterized by intrusive, distressing thoughts about sin, morality, or religious failure, paired with an overwhelm -ing need to perform rituals to neutralize the guilt

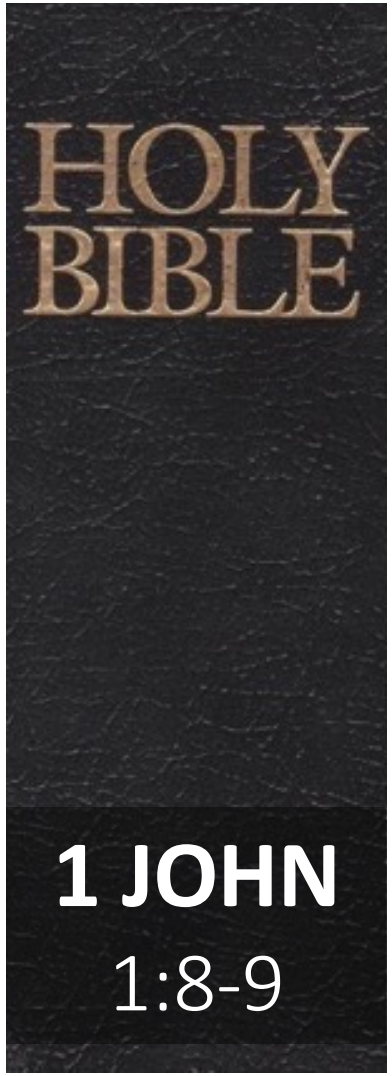


If we confess our sins,
he who is faithful and just
will forgive us our sins and
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



If we say that we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the
truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins,
he who is faithful and just
will forgive us our sins and
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

NOTE: This is about a condition of the heart that is honest about one's own sin

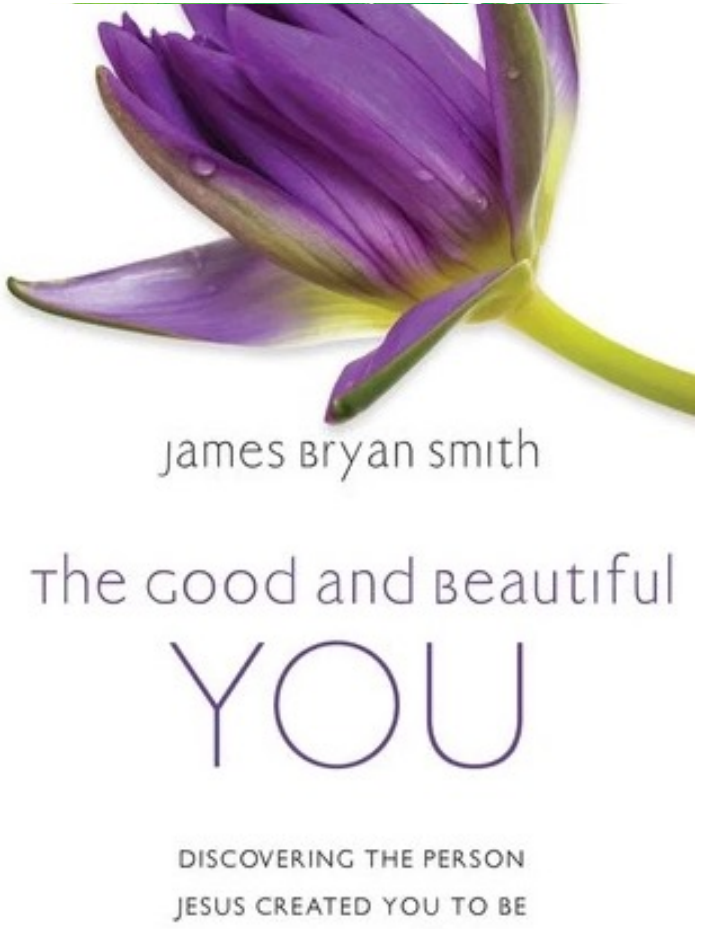


FALSE NARRATIVE

You are only forgiven
for the sins you confess

TRUE NARRATIVE

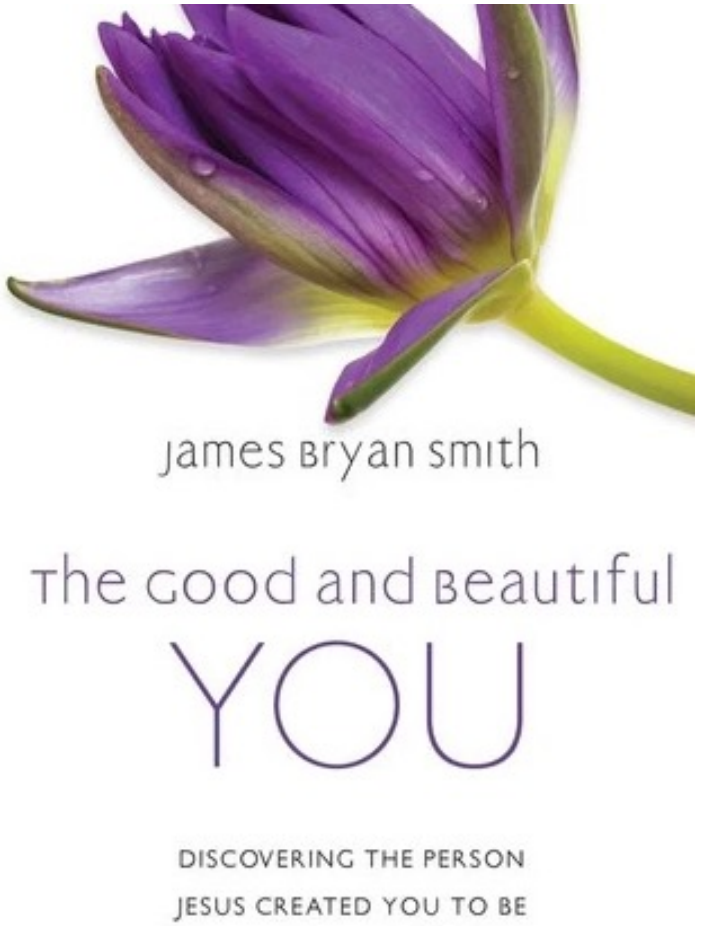
God doesn't deal with (any of!)
us on the basis of our sins,
but on the basis of God's
eternal, unchanging Love,
expressed perfectly in Jesus...



PART 2: YOU HAVE BEEN MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST

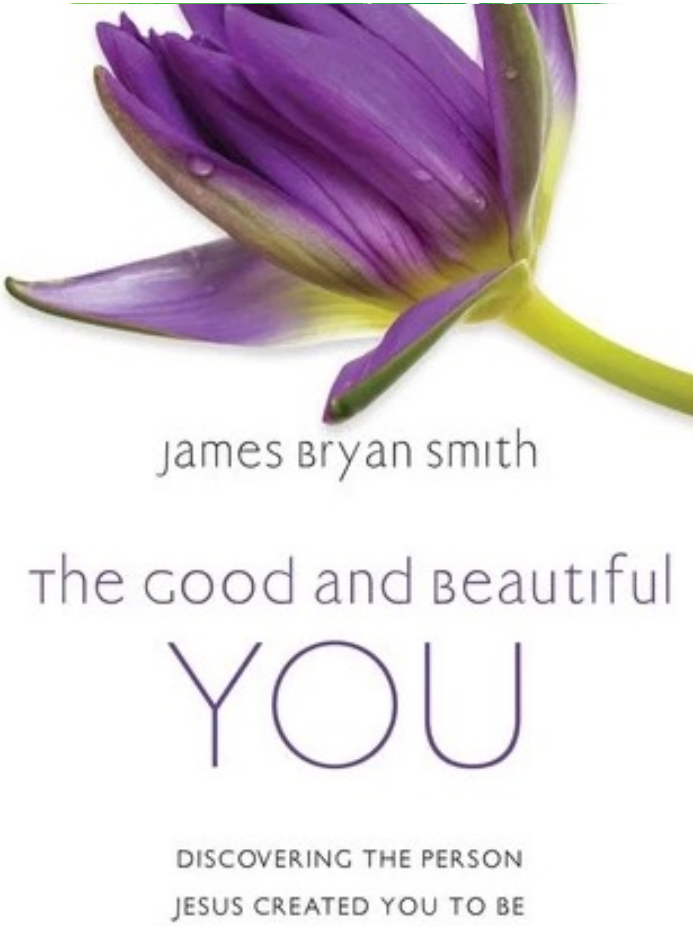
You are a new creation

- 2 Cor 5:17 ***The "old" has passed away***



FALSE NARRATIVE

All that matters is going to heaven; Jesus died on the cross so you could be forgiven/not go to hell…

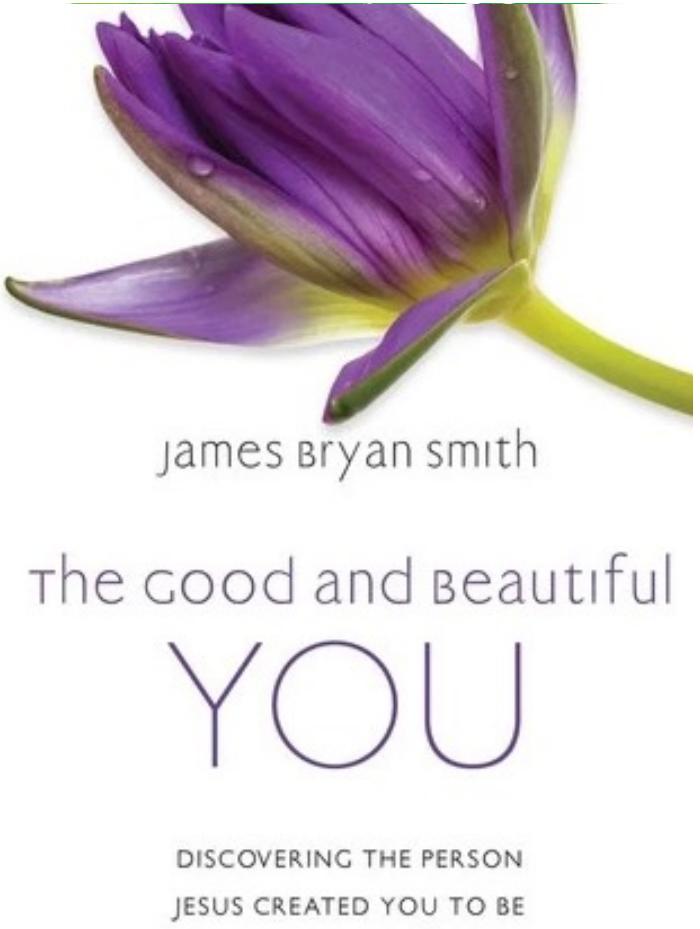


FALSE NARRATIVE

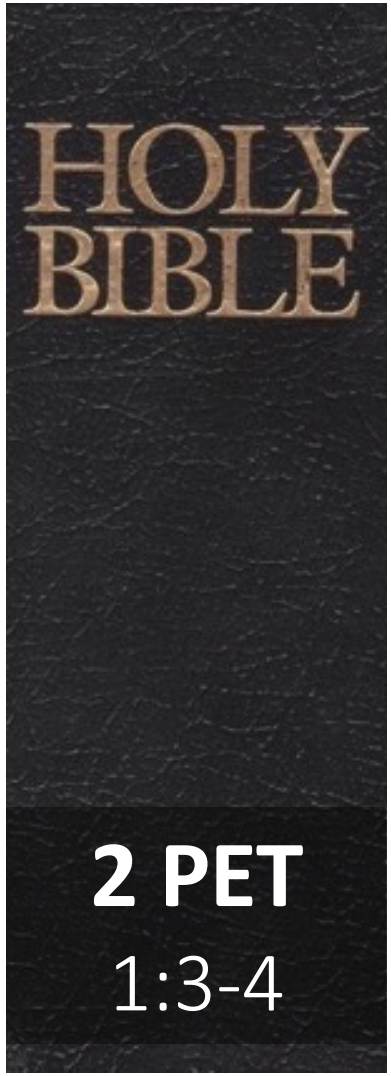
All that matters is going to heaven; Jesus died on the cross so you could be forgiven/not go to hell…

TRUE NARRATIVE

Christ lives in you, and his Spirit empowers you to live according to your Godly design



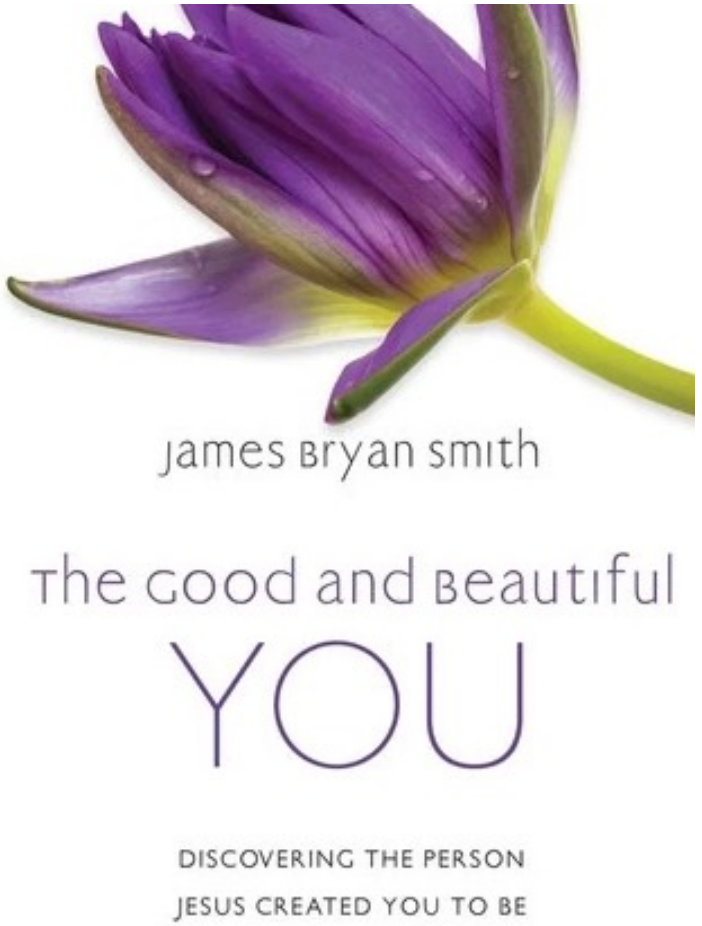
His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thus, he has given us… his precious and very great promises, so that… (we) may become participants in the divine nature.



PART 3: YOU HAVE BEEN MADE HOLY

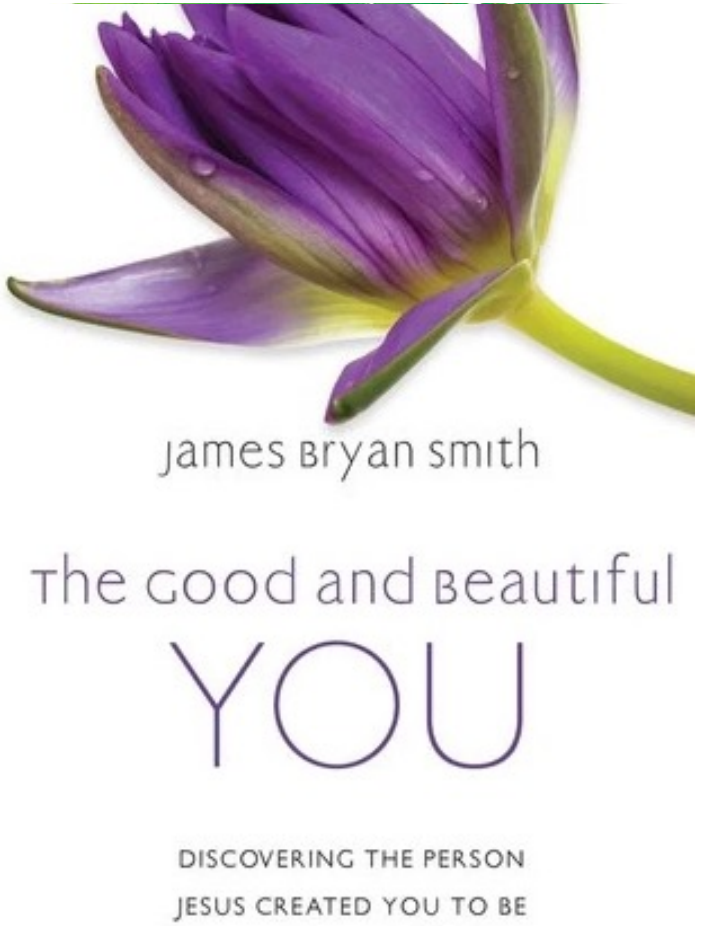
Holiness:

- Is not something you just *do*
- Is something you actually *are*



FALSE NARRATIVE

I am just a sinner saved by grace…



Alas, and did my Savior bleed?
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm* as I?

NOTE: "Worm theology" rooted in the 16th century Reformed belief in the "Total depravity" of humanity

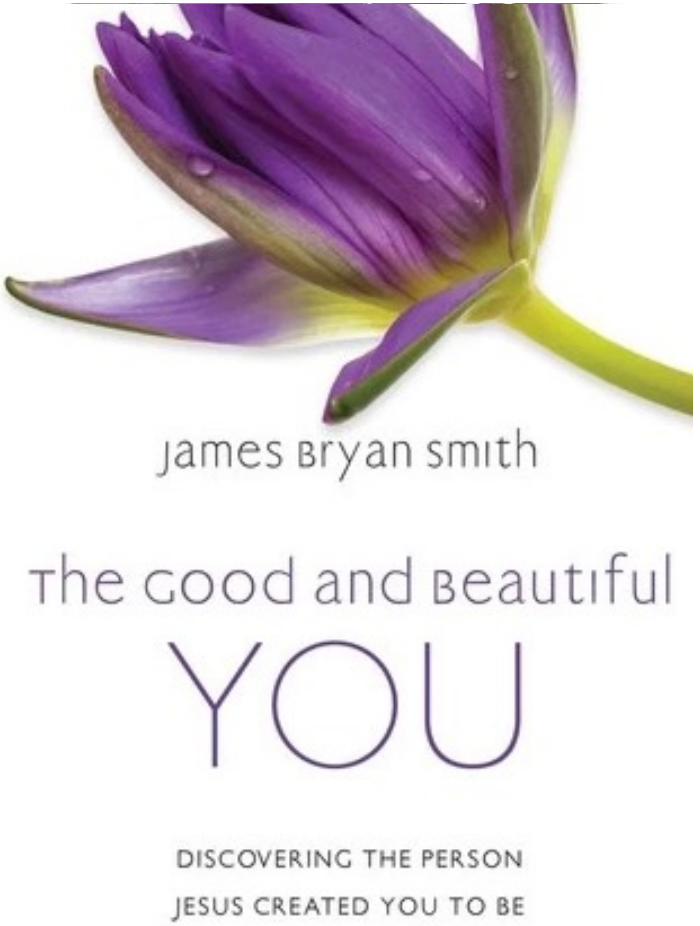


FALSE NARRATIVE

I am just a sinner saved by grace…

TRUE NARRATIVE

By the grace of God,
I have been made holy

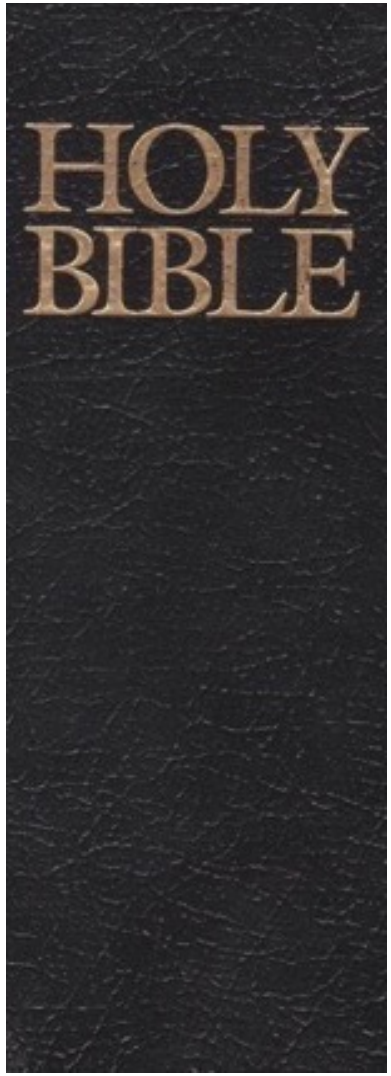


To the church of God in Corinth,
to those who are sanctified in
Christ Jesus, called to be saints **1 Cor 1:2**

…to the saints in Ephesus **Eph 1:1**

…to all the saints…in Philippi **Phil 1:1**

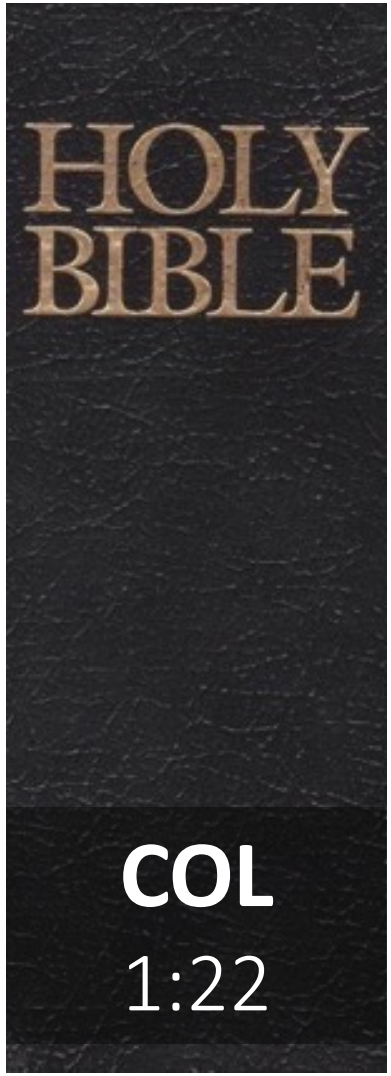
To the saints…in Christ in Colossae ***Col*** **1:2**



As theologian Don J. Payne notes, “Paul’s Corinthian correspondence particularly reflects the fact that sanctification characterized Christians who were quite immature and, to state it bluntly, an ethical mess!”



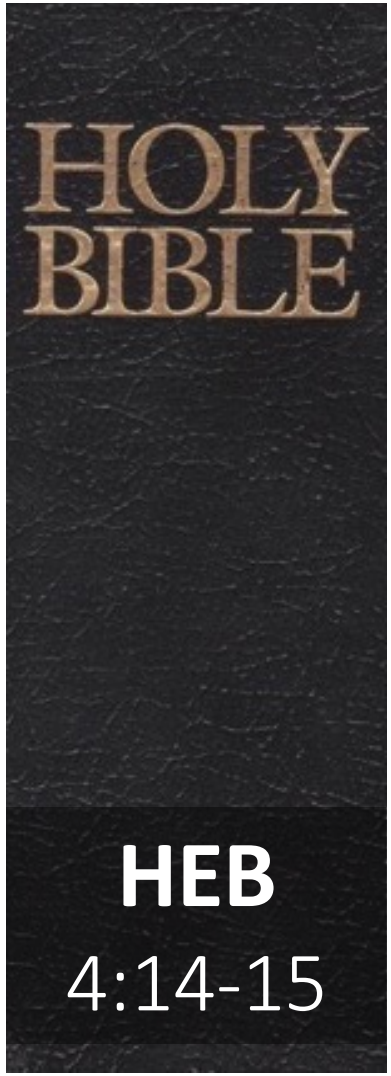
But now he has reconciled you
by Christ's physical body…
to present you holy in his sight,
without blemish and free
from accusation.





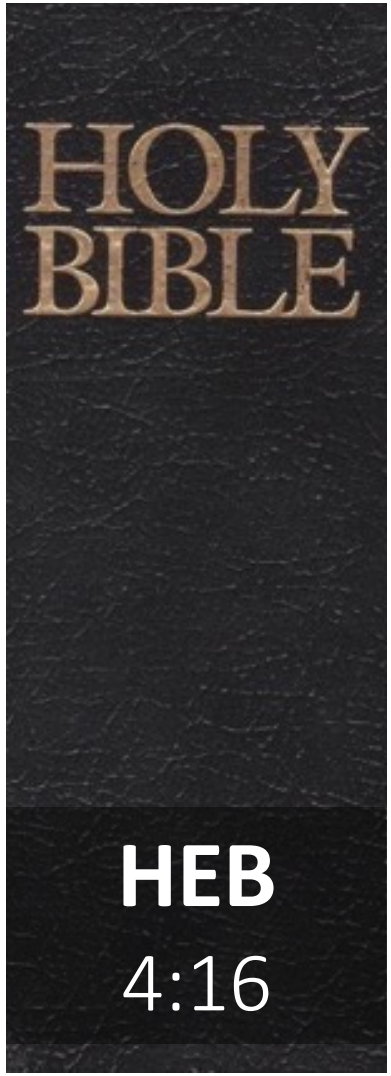


Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.



HEB
4:14-15

Let us therefore approach the throne
of grace with boldness (confidence),
so that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help
in time of need.



Sanctification is accomplished (and declared) by God. Our growth into maturity…is a cooperative work between us and God…Theologian Doug Moo puts it this way:
"The Christian is not just called to do right in a vacuum, but to do right out of a new and powerful relationship that has already been established."



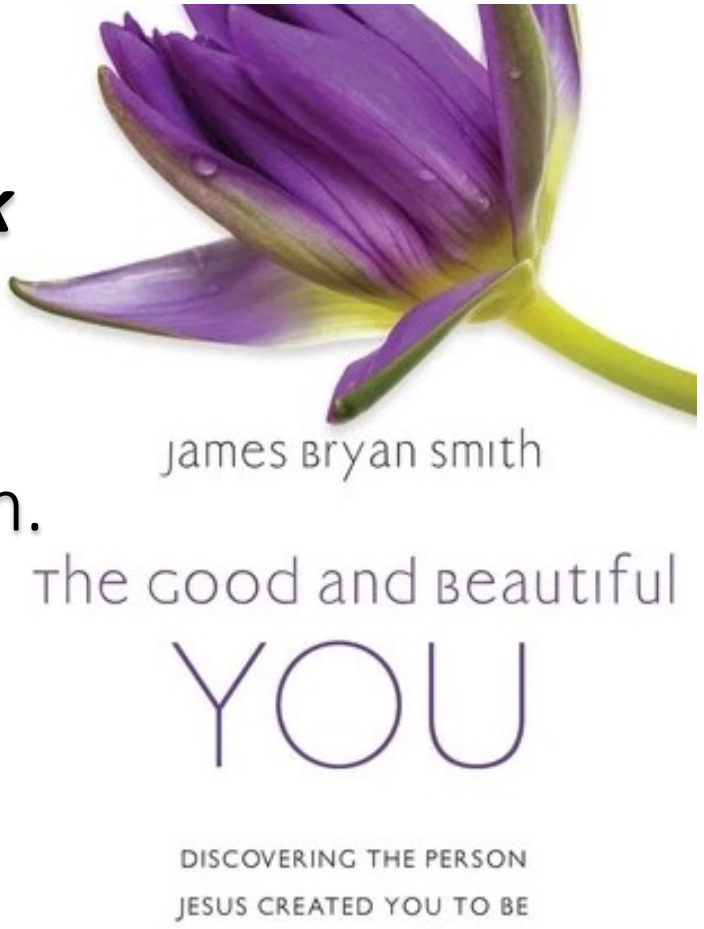
The change God works in us is not merely a new label, it is an ontological change. Ontology means “the nature of being.” Our nature is actually changed when we are in Christ. Something is truly different within us, even if our character does not yet match it (and even if we don’t see/think it!).



SOUL TRAINING EXERCISE

Repeat this once a day for a week

I was wanted by God
before I existed.
I am loved by God without condition.
I have been forever forgiven,
I have been made alive, and
I have been made holy by the
grace of God in Jesus, and I can
approach God with confidence.



God of creation, you who made and sustains
all things by the power of love made known
through your incarnate Son: thank you for
making us, for loving us, for forgiving us,
for leading us to the abundant life of your Spirit,
and for the great honor of partnering with you
in the eventual restoration of all things.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



CLOSING PRAYER