GROWTH

- 1. Glorify God
- 2. Love Others
- 3. Walk by the Spirit

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

-1 Corinthians 15:58

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

"We have borne the likeness of the earthly man..."

"the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." -Genesis 2:7

"As a father has compassion on those who fear him; for He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust."

-Psalm 103:13-14

"By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

-Genesis 3:19

Because we come out of this lineage and share Adam's nature, we experience:

1. Sin's Corruption

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—"

-Romans 5:12

Because we come out of this lineage and share Adam's nature, we experience:

2. Groaning for Redemption

"We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, and the redemption of our bodies."

-Romans 8:22-23

Because we come out of this lineage and share Adam's nature, we experience:

- 3. Physical Decay
- "Therefore we do not lose heart.
- Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."
 - -2 Corinthians 4:16

Because we come out of this lineage and share Adam's nature, we experience:

4. Inward pull toward sin

"All of us also live among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath."

-Ephesians 2:3

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

-Hebrews 12:1-2

"So also SHALL we bear the likeness of the heavenly man."

God's Word promises a real, bodily transformation:

1. "For the perishable must be clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality."

-1 Corinthians 15:53

God's Word promises a real, bodily transformation:

2. "who by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body."

-Philippians 3:21

God's Word promises a real, bodily transformation:

3. "But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

-Philippians 3:21

From Dust to Glory: "When Christ who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

-Colossians 3:4

From Weakness to Power: "it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory, it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body."

-1 Corinthians 15:43-44

From Mortality to Immortality: "When the perishable has been clothed with immortality, then the saying that is written will become true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory."

-1 Corinthians 15:54

KEY CONTRASTS

The Promise is Certain:

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

"But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

-1 Samuel 16:7

We all like sheep...

Romans 3:9-26

1. I need to remember: "God is in control!"

2. The Lord works things together for good

3. My battle is NOT against flesh and blood. I need to be able to see the humanity in people.

4. PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!!!

REFLECTION QUESTION

When people look at my life, watch my actions, my reactions, hear my words, see my posts, or hear what others say about me, would they say I am an image bearer of Christ?

Who in my life do I need to start getting into the habit of looking at through the lens of my Savior?

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Keep yourself in check this week. Keep a short account. Make sure you are being a tangible image of God, who is alive and living in you, His temple, to your sphere of influence.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

That person you have friction with... Time to start tearing down the walls and stop battling "flesh and blood" (people) and start seeing the humanity in people.