



God's Transforming Grace

MAIN THING

The third act of grace is the Holy Spirit forming you into someone who looks a lot like Jesus

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 4:1-19, Ephesians 4:22-24

ICEBREAKER

What's your favorite worship song/hymn and why?

OPENING THOUGHT

God's Transforming grace is the action of God on us once we have been cleansed of all our sin and are believers in Christ. He does this by continuing to remove sinful attitudes, behaviors, and actions from our lives and replacing them with those that are Christ-like. This is a lifelong process that will never stop as long as we are living. The Holy Spirit works within us to move us closer and closer to the life that Jesus lived. That is the goal of every Christian- to be Christ-like in everything we say, think, and do.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. There are "old pathways" that need to be torn up if we are to become Christ-like. They are The Pleasure Pathway, The Impatience Pathway, the Unforgiveness Pathway, the Defeated pathway, the Worry Pathway, and the Consumerist Pathway. How difficult is it to get rid of these? Why do you think they are so stubborn?
3. The sermon identified three new pathways out of 1 Peter that need to be laid down in our lives: the Prayer Pathway, the Love Pathway, and the Mission Pathway. Which one do you see most prominently in your life? Can you think of any other pathways that need to be laid down in your life?
4. Which is easier- to live for Christ or to die for Christ?

LIFE APPLICATION

Many people make professions of faith in Christ. We all know people who have made bold proclamations, been baptized, etc. However, the part of the Christian life that is probably the most difficult isn't making the decision- it's persevering for the rest of your life. So many of the Old Testament heroes of the faith started off great and finished terribly. Why do you think it is so hard to persevere, and what can you do to make sure that the transforming grace of God will continue in you so that you finish strong?

CHALLENGE

The Bible says that we can grieve the Holy Spirit of God (Ephesians 4:30) and we can put out the Spirit's fire (1 Thessalonians 5:19). It is possible for us as humans to stop the transforming work of the Holy Spirit within us. Are there things in your life that are quenching or grieving the Holy Spirit, rendering Him ineffective in transforming you? Identify them and stop them, surrendering all of yourself to the amazing grace of God.