

TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE

We Are So Much More in Christ

March 29, 2015 - Pastor Derwin L. Gray

- **Open in prayer.**
- **Introduction.**
- We spend our entire lives trying to get over what happened to us. We try to paint a picture of us on the outside to try to cover up what's happening on the inside.
- Adam and Eve used fig leaves to cover themselves up. Today, we use jobs, spouses, social media, and church attendance to cover ourselves up.
- There are two types of people in this world, people "in Adam" and people "in Christ".
- We've been given the greatest gift ever, grace through Jesus, and it's not just to get us into heaven, but it empowers us to live an upward, inward, outward life on earth!
- Jesus Christ undid everything that Adam did wrong. Jesus reverses the curse!
- **Read and discuss Romans 5:15-16.**
- **In Adam you are a Trespasser.**
- Trespass means to "misstep or take a false step". You've inherited this nature, which means you've miss-stepped.
 - o How and why do you often try and cover up your missteps?
 - o Do you ever compare your missteps to the missteps of other people? What does that look like?
 - o How does comparing keep you "in Adam"?
 - o Discuss the following statement, *Life isn't found in possessions, people or circumstance...it's found in the One you are walking with!*
- **In Christ you are a recipient of the Free Gift.**
- **God meets you exactly where you are and gives you a free gift.**
 - o According to this scripture, what did the Free Gift bring to you?
 - o How does this free you up from comparing?
 - o Discuss how this scripture and the following statement changes how you view your past missteps: *Jesus achieved what you could not and He achieved it so He could give it to you!*
- **Read and discuss Romans 5:17.**
- **In Adam you are dead.**
- You are physically and spiritually dead in Adam.
 - o As Pastor Derwin shared of his deep loss of his grandmother, what loss has led you to brokenness?
 - o Discuss the following statements and how they apply to your life.
What God does not initiate, God does not appreciate.
Even your good works outside of Jesus don't bring Him Glory.
- **In Christ you are a recipient of King Jesus' life.**
- You are physically and spiritually dead in Adam. In Christ you are alive!
 - o Discuss the following statement: *Jesus didn't come to make bad people good, He came to make spiritually dead people alive.*
- The same Jesus that rose from the dead is the same Jesus who wants to rise up in you.
 - o In what areas of life do you sense the need for Christ to rise up in you?
 - o What are some practical examples of allowing Christ to live in and through you?
- **Read and discuss Romans 5:18.**
- **In Adam you are condemned.**
- Condemnation can easily eat away at you.
 - o Thinking of Pastor Derwin's example of an abandoned house, have there been times in your life where you've felt foreclosed on because of condemnation?
 - o How do you try, outside of Christ, to overcome those feelings?

- **In Christ you are righteous.**
- The condemnation you deserve is washed away by the blood of Jesus.
 - What voices in your head do you need to tell to shut up because you're no longer condemned?
 - What's the problem with thinking your spiritual disciplines make you righteous?
 - How do you treat people who can't do anything for you? (HINT: Because Jesus sought reconciliation with you, you can extend that same reconciliation with others.)

- **Read and discuss Romans 5:19.**
- **In Adam you are disobedient.**
- We have all been disobedient. All means you and me.
 - How can your good works be tainted by your disobedience?
 - Have you ever felt you can't get it right or stay on track?

- **In Christ you are obedient.**
- For 33 years Jesus lived a perfect life that you could not live. God charges to your account what Jesus has done! God's grace covers you, so that when God looks at you He sees Jesus!
 - When is the last time you thanked God for what He has done for you through Christ?
 - When you realize that the work, life and obedience of Jesus is attributed to you, how does that transform the way you live?
 - Take some time as a group and praise God for what He has done.

- **Read and discuss Romans 5:12.**
- **In Adam you are a law-breaker.**
 - According to this scripture, why are all of us lawbreakers in Adam?
 - The tearing off of that former identity "law breaker" is often painful. Are you holding on to any part of that old nature?

- **Read and discuss Romans 5:20-21.**
- **In Christ you are living in Grace.**
- God's grace is a gift that keeps on giving.
 - What's keeping you from believing that you are righteous because of Christ?
 - There are God accomplishments that have your name written on them. Would you allow Him to show you them?

- One of our values at Transformation Church is ***The Transformative Gospel of Grace.***
 - *We are committed, through the Spirit's enabling power, to be a community that invites and seeks out the wounded, the broken-hearted and marginalized so that they can be transformed by the Gospel of grace into the image of Jesus joining Him in His mission to transform the world.*
 - *We are committed through the Spirit's enabling power, to the belief that Grace is Jesus Himself coming to live in and through His people. Life in the Kingdom is empowered by the King of Kings, not human effort.*
 - How does this value reflect and support the truth of this message?

- **Soul-tattoo: Wear your "So Much More in Christ" t-shirt.**
- Think of ways to display the attributes of "In Christ You Are" from the chart below. (In your car, on a mirror, on the refrigerator, at work, in your locker, etc.)
- This will encourage you to marinate on this truth, and the shirt will be a more confident reminder of these gifts you've been given "in Christ".

- **Close in prayer.**
- Encourage and pray for Transformers to invite folks to our Good Friday services and Easter services.
- Encourage your group to be people who understand grace. His grace transforms you into a person of praise!

Romans 5:12-21	In Adam You Are:	In Christ You Are:
Romans 5:15-16	<u>A Trespasser</u>	A Recipient of the <u>Free Gift</u>
Romans 5:17	<u>Dead</u>	A Recipient of King Jesus' <u>Life</u>
Romans 5:18	<u>Condemned</u>	<u>Righteous</u>
Romans 5:19	<u>Disobedient</u>	<u>Obedient</u>
Romans 5:20-21	<u>A Law-Breaker</u>	Living in <u>Grace</u>