

A Fresh Start with God

Announcements

- **Night of Prayer & Worship** – LCC, Friday February 3rd, 7:00-10:00pm.
- **Starting Point** – LCC, Sunday, February 5, 2:00 – 5:00pm.
- **Dream Team Orientation** – LCC, Sunday, February 12, 5:00 – 6:30pm.

Warm-up

Can you share a time when as you got to know someone, you learned that your initial impression of them was wrong? Did you find it hard to change your mind about that person?

Word & Application

Today we're going to see that the way we view ourselves often needs adjusting in light of God's Word.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. This verse tells us that if we are "in Christ," then we are a "new creation." In other words, when we receive Christ as Savior and Lord, we have a "fresh start" in Him. We're not patched up, repaired, or renovated. We've been made alive and made new.

How does the knowledge that you've been made totally new in Christ change your perspective about yourself? How does this knowledge change your perspective about God? How will this new perspective change the way you live?

Read Ephesians 1:1-14. Count the number of times that these verses say "in Christ", "in Him", or "through Christ" (We counted ten). What are some of the benefits of being "in Christ" that you noticed in these verses? How does being "in Christ" impact your life every day?

Read Ephesians 2:10. The word workmanship is translated from the Greek word "poema". What English word do you see in the Greek word poema? We are God's personal poem, His love letter.

When are you most likely to be tempted to condemn yourself? How does knowing that you are God's personal "poem" help you overcome self-condemnation?

Read Romans 8:1 and Philippians 3:13-14. How does the truth of these two verses help us to overcome a poor view of ourselves?

It is important for us to be able to work through our past and see ourselves the way God sees us. When we can focus on "who" God has called us to be we will be able to get over our past problems and become everything we are called to be.

Read 2 Corinthians 10:12. Why do you think is it unwise to compare yourself with others?

When you compare yourself with others, you will never gain God's perspective on yourself. God has created us with unique talents and gifts to help fulfill His purpose. We should strive to be the best "me" that we can be.

Read Proverbs 18:21. Consider your thoughts about yourself...are they usually positive or negative? Do you let those thoughts actually come out in the way you speak about yourself or your circumstances? How do you think your words and thoughts effect your life?

Here's a challenge this week, focus on your thoughts about yourself. Every time you're tempted to think or say something negative about yourself, turn it around and speak what God's Word says about you.

Remember, your identity, as a Christian, should be found in nothing else than in who you are in Christ. We can find out who we are in Christ by finding His promises about us in the Bible.

What has God been speaking to you about during this discussion?

Prayer

Take time to pray that everybody in your group would have a new understanding of who they are in Christ. Also, take time to ask everybody in your group what specific prayer requests they have and also what prayers they have had answered recently.

Going Deeper

Here are some important promises of God for you to know in order to see yourself the way God sees you.

1. You are born again. (1 Peter 1:23)
2. You're a partaker in eternal life and God's nature. (John 10:10)
3. Christ lives in you. (Galatians 2:20)
4. God's love is poured into your hearts by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5)
5. You're an overcomer in life. (1 John 5:4-5).
6. God's resurrection life and power resides in you. (Romans 8:11)
7. You're brother is Christ, and you have privileges of a Child of God. (Romans 8:17)
8. You have the ability to reign in life as kings. (Romans 5:17)
9. You're made the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
10. You've been blessed with all spiritual blessings. (Ephesians 1:3).
11. You've been given the divine ability to be successful and prosperous in every area of life. (2 Corinthians 8:9).
12. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and the Greater One lives in you. (2 Corinthians 6:19-20).
13. You're redeemed from every curse and are made worthy to enjoy all the blessings of God. (Galatians 3:13-14).