

Jesus Changes Everything-New Self

Funeral-Lyric Video by Leanna Crawford - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBI0MvRJV-s>

Change Ahead:

- 1) Students will cross their arms and then be asked to cross them in the other direction
- 2) Students will change seats. No seats by someone you were sitting by.
- 3) Change your look. Partners will change three things about their appearance while their counterpart is turned around. They will then have to identify the changes.

How did you feel about these changes? Were you uncomfortable? Excited?

Why do you think we are so opposed to change? Is change always bad? Always Good?

In this series we are going to be talking about change. Change can be difficult. Change can be uncomfortable. Sometimes, taking the first step to change can be intimidating. But the changes we will be discussing over the next month are more important than any other changes in your life. These changes have eternal consequences, eternal results, eternal benefits. The catalyst to these changes is Jesus. **Jesus Changes Everything.**

Check out this video-Intro to Jesus Changes Everything
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY68kSWZKU8&t=38s>

This week we will be talking about the New Self. This is the first change that Jesus makes in our lives.

We will begin by splitting up into our small groups and discussing some examples of change in the life of a particular man in the Bible, Saul/Paul.

Go ahead and find your group. Spend the first 10 minutes or so having everyone introduce themselves and share something unique. Take this time to get to know your group. Be encouraging. Be open. Be honest.

Your group will then discuss their assigned part of the handout and come ready to give a report to the group.

Red Group-Acts 8:1-3 and 9:1-2—How did Saul live and act before he met Jesus?

Green Group-Acts 9:3-9—What happened to Saul ON THE ROAD TO Damascus?

Blue Group-Acts 9:10-19—What happened to Saul IN Damascus?

Purple Group-Acts 9:20-22—How did Paul change after he met Jesus?

Share what you discussed with the group.

Now let's look at another person that was changed when they encountered Jesus.

Levi or Matthew as recorded in Mark 2:13-17

Chosen Video of Matthew's calling and dinner at his house.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fldru4OUAo&t=3427s>

Both of these experienced a drastic change. But their change, although uncomfortable, was prompted by their faith in Jesus. Each of these men would never be the same.

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But what about you? This first session is called the New Self. Why do you think it is called that?

There are three changes in the life of a Christian that Jesus makes. If we have a relationship with Christ, our entire existence falls into one of these three categories: Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification. The song and video we watched earlier spoke of these things as well.

This week we will be focusing primarily on Justification but the passage we will be looking at really touches on all three.

Let's read...

Ephesians 2:1-10 ¹ And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

⁴ **But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Verses 1-3 tells us where we came from. Because of our sin nature, we are dead. We are doomed to face God's wrath. And the way we were living just gave evidence to that. We are all in a terrible spot, naturally.

Verses 4-7 speaks to God's intervention through His Son, Jesus Christ. In spite of our terrible state, God loved us enough to send His Son to show us unmerited favor. This speaks to our **justification**. Through Christ, we are made alive. Spiritually, we share in His resurrection now. Through Christ, we can become sons and daughters, joint heirs to the Kingdom. We will see all this played out in our lives and ultimately when we spend eternity with our Creator. We share in His physical resurrection when He returns. This alludes to the **glorification** part. One day we will see exactly what Christ's work on the cross accomplished. We can only see part of that while we are here on earth. We see it first through our justification and then through our sanctification as our relationship grows.

Verses 8-10 reminds us what grace is and how it works. Paul then clarifies the purpose of our works, not to save us but as a response to Christ and the new creation He has made us. This is the **sanctification** part, being set apart with the purpose of glorifying God through our works. This was His plan all along. This was not a backup plan.

I want to ask you all tonight...are you dead? I know that sounds like a dumb question but we just read that before Christ, we are "dead in our trespasses" which means we are spiritually dead. If you do not know Jesus, you haven't placed your faith and trust in Him, you are spiritually dead. And what's worse, if you physically die, you will remain spiritually dead, forever separated from your Creator, the One who loved you so much that He gave His life for you! There is no time like the present to become alive!

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Are you a new creation?

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

If we have been JUSTIFIED, made new, saved from your sins, declared not guilty, we need to start living like it. It says, behold ALL things have become new! Our spirit is not the only thing that becomes new, it's just the beginning. This rebirth sets off a chain reaction that reaches to every part of our existence. Our whole life changes. Our attitude. Our likes/dislikes. Our behavior. Our walk. Our talk. At this point, we've moved from the justification phase to the sanctification phase.

If we are not moving in that direction...you might want to step back and reevaluate that justification part. Jesus did His part but did you do yours, not talking about works and good deeds, but your part in realizing you are a sinner in need of a Savior. Did you put your faith and trust in Jesus?

Jesus changes everything...starting with you!