

“Changed By The Cross”
Galatians 6:11-15
Sermon Series: “This Is Us”

Main Idea: Our lives are transformed when we place our faith exclusively in Christ crucified for us.

How?

- 1. We have a new identity (v. 13-14).** This is based on the idea that boasting is an expression of identity. It reveals what we are relying on, what validates us, and what gives us confidence.
- 2. We have a new position (v. 14-15).** We are in Christ. We are crucified with Him (Galatians 2:20). John Stott said, “The commonest description in the Scriptures of a follower of Jesus is that he or she is a person ‘in Christ.’ To be “in Christ” does not mean to be inside Christ, as tools are in a box or our clothes in a closet, but to be organically united to Christ, as a limb is in the body or a branch is in the tree. In this union with Jesus, we are graced (2 Timothy 1:9), chosen (Ephesians 1:4), loved (Romans 8:38-39), redeemed and forgiven completely (Ephesians 1:7), righteous (2 Corinthians 5:21), recipients of God’s promises (2 Corinthians 1:20), our needs are met (Philippians 4:19), we have the peace of God (Philippians 4:7), and we have eternal life and the guarantee of a resurrection body (Romans 6:23, 1 Corinthians 15:22).
- 3. We have a new nature (v. 15).** We are new creations in Christ. We have been regenerated so we have new hearts and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to live a new kind of life. Timothy George writes, “The new creation, then, involves the whole process of conversion: the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit leading to repentance and faith, the daily process of [dying to self], continual growth in holiness leading to eventual conformity to the image of Christ. The new creation implies a new nature with a new

system of desires, affections, and habits, all wrought through the supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. No spiritual gymnastics, no twelve-step program on the deeper life, no quick-fix “how-to-Be-a-Better-Christian” seminar can produce this kind of transformation. Paul’s emphasis was on the act of God in effecting a new thing. This is the result of faith working by love leading to holiness culminating in a life filled with the Spirit. As Paul had done throughout the letter, so too here in these closing lines he reiterated the central thesis he had developed from numerous perspectives: no one is made right with God on the basis of external ceremonies or human efforts of any kind but only through the unilateral action of God in the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the object of the believer’s trust and the One whose Spirit liberates and empowers all those whose sins are forgiven. Put otherwise, justification by faith is not a legal fiction but a living reality that manifests itself in the new creation.”

Conclusion: So, in the words of our core value, we reject moralism and embrace grace. We can’t be saved by our own efforts. We can’t please God in the flesh. We can’t earn God’s favor, but we don’t have to because it has already been given to us in Christ. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. Also, the Christian life can only be lived by grace alone through faith alone in the power of the Holy Spirit. So, we reject moralism and embrace grace in regard to salvation and spiritual growth (living the Christian life).

Applications-

- 1. We experience this change when we place our faith exclusively in Christ.** Salvation is through faith in Jesus alone-not Jesus plus anything (Galatians 2:16).
- 2. We live out this change by walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-26).**