

New Creation...

What to do...

- What do we do with what God gives us?
- If it is a gift, we receive it

What to do...

- What do we do with what God gives us?
- If it is a gift, we receive it
- But we also realize God gives with purpose
 - Bless us
 - Bless the Body of Christ
 - Bless those who do not yet know Him

Sanctity of Life Sunday

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- God creates life and so we treasure it

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- He also determines when it ceases here on earth and continues on into eternity
 - Heaven
 - Hell

Sanctity of Life Sunday

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- He also determines when it ceases here on earth and continues on into eternity
 - Heaven
 - Hell
- Situational ethics
 - Ultimately, when believers make decisions about life and death, we need to seek God's will and trust His plan

2 Corinthians 5

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 - External physical coverings of internal spirits
 - Temporary
 - Made with purpose
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 - Because of a fallen world, bodies are corruptible
- We all are accountable for what we do in these bodies and will stand before God because of it
- But for believers, in heaven our spirits receive eternal bodies which don't know earthly problems or limitations

2 Corinthians 5

“Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this, too. Are we commending ourselves to you again? No, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, so you can answer those who brag about having a spectacular ministry rather than having a sincere heart. If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit...”

Just so you don't freak...

- If we're crazy – it's because of Jesus
 - Seriously, can you abandon your uptightness?

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 - Can you let go and step out boldly in faith?

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 - Can you be consumed by the thought that God is using you and your gift(s) in such a way as to glorify Himself and build the Kingdom?

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- If we're crazy – it's because of Jesus
 - Seriously, can you abandon your uptightness?
 - Can you let go and step out boldly in faith?
 - Can you be consumed by the thought that God is using you and your gift(s) in such a way as to glorify Himself and build the Kingdom?
 - If I'm appearing sane, it's just so you don't freak

2 Corinthians 5

“Either way, Christ’s love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them...”

Is it good to be controlled?

- There is still choice involved
 - I choose to live under His authority
 - I choose to live accepting His sacrifice
 - I choose to live for Him

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 - God loves us all equally
 - But He relates to us according to His will, individually

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 - But He relates to us according to His will, individually
- I am not the salvation inspector

2 Corinthians 5

“So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

Transformation

- What pre-dates salvation is dead
- From that point on I am new

Transformation

- What pre-dates salvation is dead
- From that point on I am new
- And even when I sin past that point, when I repent, I am new

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- And even when I sin past that point, when I repent, I am new
- Crazy generous!
- This is true for me
- This is true for all who come to accept Christ

Imagine your life...

- Stop evaluating based on human perceptions

Imagine your life...

- Stop evaluating based on human perceptions
- Yourself
 - Your past
 - Your present
 - Your future

Imagine your life...

- Stop evaluating based on human perceptions
- Yourself
 - Your past
 - Your present
 - Your future
- Everyone else who accepts Jesus
 - Their past
 - Their present
 - Their future

Imagine your life...

- Burdens lifted

Imagine your life...

- Burdens lifted
- Freedom from judgment
 - Yourself
 - Others

Imagine your life...

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- Freedom from fear and worry

Imagine your life...

- Burdens lifted
- Freedom from judgment
 - Yourself
 - Others
- Freedom from fear and worry
- Looking at life through the eyes of Jesus

2 Corinthians 5

“And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ...”

2 Corinthians 5

“And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation...”

Incredible purpose and plan

- Where else can you find a job specifically suited to your gifts and abilities?

Incredible purpose and plan

- Where else can you find a job specifically suited to your gifts and abilities?
- Where else can you find a job with a guarantee that everything you give into it will be used for good?
 - Challenge is to give without conditions

2 Corinthians 5

“So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”

So, investment options...

- God has invested this in you so that you can be His ambassador to the world

So, investment options...

- God has invested this in you so that you can be His ambassador to the world
 - To the Body of Christ
 - Utilizing your gift(s)

So, investment options...

- God has invested this in you so that you can be His ambassador to the world
 - To the Body of Christ
 - Utilizing your gift(s)
 - To those who haven't accepted Jesus yet
 - Utilizing your gift(s)

Reconciliation

- It's the job

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- It's the job
- It's the way to glorify God

Reconciliation

- It's the job
- It's the way to glorify God
- It's the way to be used to build the Body

Reconciliation

- It's the job
- It's the way to glorify God
- It's the way to be used to build the Body
- It's the way to reach those who are lost

It's your gift

- Receive it

It's your gift

- Receive it
- Open it

It's your gift

- Receive it
- Open it
- Enjoy it

It's your gift

- Receive it
- Open it
- Enjoy it
- Utilize it

Challenges...

- Ask God to help you stop looking at people as just humans and start looking at them as eternal souls with great value
 - Seriously...
 - What if you are the means of them hearing this good news?

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 - What if you are the means of them hearing this good news?
- Pray
- Fast
- Use your gift(s)