

THE BIG IDEA: We become like what we worship.The Take-Off

I'm sure you've all heard of Transformation Tuesday

It's the hashtag people use when they post various pictures of themselves from different times that show the changes they've made in their lives

Usually, it's the physical change that we notice, although I'm sure there are other changes in attitude, outlook, etc.

[IMAGES - Transformation Tuesday pictures]

What makes these images so incredible is that enough time has passed to actually see the changes.

It wouldn't be so drastic if we were seeing the daily pictures during those 4-7 year spans, would it?

There's a very real difference between saying "I'm changing" and saying "I'm changed"

One is a process and the other is a proof, and it's hard when it feels like our lives are more process than proof.

The temptation can be to settle for some transformation instead of finishing the whole transformation.

And that's where the "ish" comes in!

"Ish" simply means "somewhat" or "to some extent"

Christian-ish would be saying that we're kind of Christian

This series title - Self-ish - plays on that.

It comes from 2 Cor. 5:17 - if we're in Christ, we ARE new creations and the old HAS gone and the new HAS come

Our old nature apart from Christ was selfish ("concerned excessively or exclusively with oneself") and our new nature in Christ is unselfish

But sometimes it can seem like we're not fully either of those: instead, we're self·ish

Life is kind of about others and also kind of about ourselves

So when we tell the world that Jesus has made us new, sometimes it can seem like we're showing them a

Transformation Tuesday picture that shows a day's worth of the process!

What do we do to ensure that the process continues until the transformation is obvious to everyone?

That's what this series is all about: understanding that God is changing us and seeing how worship, community, and serving - the 3 parts of our church process - play a role in it.

First, let's look at the change from the old to the new:

1. 3 verses - 3 changes - 1 source

- a. Turn with me to **2 Corinthians 5:15-17**
- b. Each one of these verses highlights a change - a transformation - that happens in the lives of believers
 - v. 15 / we have a new PURPOSE / we don't live for ourselves, but for Jesus
 - v. 16 / we have a new PERSPECTIVE / our view of God and others changes
 - v. 17 / we are a new PERSON / this isn't a hope, it's a fact
- c. We see 3 very real changes in these 3 verses, but what I want you to see is the first part of **v. 18**
- d. **"All this is from God..."**
- e. HE is the source of the transformation.
- f. Sometimes we can get frustrated with the process because it isn't moving fast enough, and so we try to do things to make it go faster
- g. But God is the one who sanctifies us - who sets us apart as holy - from the inside out
- h. We read the certainty of these changes and want them right now, but the process of transformation takes time, and often more time than we'd like
- i. It's the whole message Jay preached during Encounter, isn't it? Living between here and there.
- j. And that is where the 3 steps in the process come into play - worship, community, serving
- k. God uses each of these in the believer's life to transform us from what we were into what we are
- l. This morning, let's focus on how WORSHIP helps us live lives that are less self·ish

2. Who are we looking at?

- a. We've already seen in v. 16 how seeing God gives us a new perspective
- b. We can't afford to get this wrong / an incorrect perspective can be deadly **[CLIP - Jaws - You're gonna need a bigger boat]**

- c. I would argue that many of us are overwhelmed by “sharks” in our walk with God
- d. We need a bigger view of God, and worship provides us with that
- e. Turn to **2 Cor. 3:18** and let's see this in action
- f. The NIV says “all reflect the Lord's glory”
- g. The Greek word for “reflect” literally means “to look in a mirror”
- h. First truth about worship: **it's all about what we see**
 - What are you staring at in your life?
 - What consumes your time, your talents, your treasure, your thoughts?
 - What we see is HUGE! **Psalm 101:3; 119:37**
- i. Notice what happens when we look intently at the Lord: we're transformed into His likeness
- j. Second truth about worship: **what we see is what we'll be** (“transformed” = “metamorphosis”)
- k. In other words, we look at Him and then we start to look like Him
- l. Think of it like this: **we become like what we worship** so we'd better be sure to worship the right One
- m. Seeing God changes the way we see everything else!
- n. When we see Him, we start to see things like Him
- o. Every aspect of the believer's new life is built on the first foundation of worship, because worship is seeing God for Who He is and also seeing things for how God says they are
- p. When our lives get a little off track - we become a little more selfish than unselfish - the answer isn't to try harder, but to see clearer
- q. In **Psalm 73**, the writer shares honestly about struggling with correct perspective, but something happened in **verse 17** that changed everything: “When I entered the sanctuary of God, I understood...”
- r. A life of worship creates a life of perspective.
- s. If our lives are out of balance, the first question we should ask is, “Who am I looking at?”
- t. If the answer is ourselves, we'll never have the correct perspective.
- u. Worship - seeing God in His rightful place - is the answer for that.

The Landing

This week we're partnering with Love Life CLT, but the reality is that we can only value life if we value the One who gives life

The question isn't do we value life, but does God? Of course He does.

Worship helps us value it, too, because **when we live our lives in front of God, we'll value life that comes from God.**

Fasting and walking for life this week is the kind of fruit that a believer bears in his or her life

But that fruit only comes in an environment of worship - living your life in front of God so that you value life that comes from God.

Introduce Andre Gonzalez from Love Life Charlotte to talk about our adoption week