

The Exchanged Life - Week 6

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. Ephesians 2:4-5 NLT

Day 1 - Living the Exchanged Life

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

When you became a Christian, a great exchange took place. Jesus Christ took your place and died for you on the cross. All of your sins (past, present and future) were placed upon Jesus Christ, and He died in your stead. Because of our sin and brokenness, we were dead and separated from God. Jesus did for us what we could never do on our own. He took our place and paid the penalty of death that our sin deserved. In that great transaction, Christ received all your sins and guilt, and you received His sinless righteousness as if it were your own. This righteous status before God the Father became your eternal position in Christ. Because of Jesus' work on the cross, you were forgiven and made right with God. Now the path is clear for you to have a real, intimate, and personal relationship with Him - the kind of life that you were designed for. Through Jesus, we are now free to approach God's throne with boldness and confidence (Hebrews 4:16). We have become heirs (co-heirs with Jesus Christ) to an eternal seat at the Father's table (Romans 8:17).

The Exchanged Life is a concept that describes how a Christian can live in a way that is powerful and victorious. All of

us want to live in a way that honors Jesus, and that brings glory to him - but we often lose sight of that and go back to focusing on ourself and our own efforts to earn God's favor. We are constantly tempted by the flesh to rely on our own works and goodness. But the Bible is clear! Romans 3:11-12 says:

"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

If this is true, then we need a Savior! We need someone to redeem us from this sin and brokenness, and to continue to extend us grace every day. Thank God we have that Savior - Jesus Christ! (Romans 7:21-25)

Living the exchanged life is simply living life and engaging all that each day brings with a constant awareness that we bring **nothing** to the table and Jesus brings everything. He gives us life, breath, health, and security. He alone is responsible for our eternal salvation, so he alone is able to discern what is best for us each day. Living the exchanged life is a life of trusting and obedience.

Day 2 - Your Identity in Christ

*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21*

Read what God says in Ezekiel 36:26-27:

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”

1. What do you bring to the table in your relationship with Christ? What does He bring to your relationship?

2. Describe a time in your spiritual life when you felt defeated and weak in your faith.

3. Describe a time when you were living “victoriously” and your faith yielded action in your spiritual life.

4. As you read about the Exchanged Life concept, list a few things that you long for in your spiritual life.

He does this total renovation in the heart of everyone who chooses to put their trust in him. Your identity is now fully in Jesus, and no longer with the world. As his beloved sons, we have access to all the resources of the One who created the world. He wants us to live victorious over sin in HIS STRENGTH and by HIS POWER.

Read the attached document called “My Identity in Jesus”. The phrases and verses you will find are ones that describe a follower of Jesus. Anyone who has put their trust in him, and not in themselves, can claim these truths for themselves.

1. Which “identity” truth most resonated with your heart and soul? Why do you think you connected with this one?

2. What does it mean to you that you are God's BELOVED?

3. Why is it important to understand that you are a CO-HEIR with Christ?

4. AMBASSADOR OF CHRIST. Where are you representing Jesus to the world today? In what context is he calling you to reflect him to those around you?

Day 3 - By Grace, Through Faith...Ephesians 2:1-10

Spend some time reading Ephesians 2:1-10...maybe even reading it through a couple times. Allow this powerful truth to sink deep into your mind, and ask God to move it from your head to your heart.

1. Do you ever feel like you can work hard enough to earn God's favor or blessing? Why do we feel like we have to work to impress God?

2. List some "works" that you continue to struggle with and ask God to extend his grace and give you the strength to renounce and repent of them.

3. List 3-4 ways that you will choose to rest in your IDENTITY IN JESUS today.

Day 4 - Removing the Veil - Apprehending God

1. **Read Chapters 3-4** in Tozer, "*The Pursuit of God*". *Don't miss that - read 2 chapters this week.* Highlight thoughts or key phrases that challenge you. Be ready to share and discuss at group meeting this week. List a couple ideas that stood out to you in this reading.

2. How does your heart respond to Tozer's statement: "*God wills that we should push on into his presence and live our whole life there.*" ?

3. What is our part in tearing down the veil that keeps us from meeting God in the Holy of Holies? What is God's part?

4. Tozer says in Chapter 4, "To many people, God is an inference, not a reality." Describe how this idea is revealed or played out in the lives of those you encounter every day.

WORK ON YOUR
MEMORY VERSE.....

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

BOOTS ON THE GROUND...

What is ONE THING that you read, learned, or experienced this week that you know God had planned for you?



Practically speaking, how can you make this a reality in your life? What is a way that you can get your "boots on the ground" in this area?

MY IDENTITY IN JESUS

BELOVED

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness." - Jeremiah 31:3

A CHILD OF GOD

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" - 1 John 3:1

DELIGHTED IN

"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." - Zephaniah 3:17

FORGIVEN

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." - 1 Peter 2:24

WASHED CLEAN

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." - Isaiah 1:18

FREE

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." - Galatians 5:1

A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?" - 1 Corinthians 6:19

ADOPTED INTO GOD'S FAMILY

"The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'" - Romans 8:15

CO-HEIR WITH CHRIST

"Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ." - Romans 8:17

RIGHTEOUS

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." - 2 Corinthians 5:21

NEW

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: The old has gone, the new has come!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17

A SAINT

"You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." - 1 Corinthians 6:11

SET APART

"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession." - 1 Peter 2:9

AN AMBASSADOR OF CHRIST

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." - 2 Corinthians 5:20

A CO-LABORER

"For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building." - 1 Corinthians 3:9

A SWEET AROMA

"For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing." - 2 Corinthians 2:15

NEVER ALONE

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." - Deuteronomy 31:8

A MASTERPIECE

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." - Ephesians 2:10

WONDERFULLY MADE

"I am fearfully and wonderfully made." - Psalm 139:14

BOLD

"Since we have such a hope, we are very bold." - 2 Corinthians 3:12

HAVING GUARANTEED VICTORY

"You have given me your shield of victory. Your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great." - Psalm 18:35

HOLDING A SECURED FUTURE

"'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" - Jeremiah 29:11

WHOLE IN CHRIST

"In Christ you have been brought to fullness." - Colossians 2:10