

The Signature of God

Part 1: Transformation

Big Idea

Ephesians 2:10 describes God's people as His masterpieces. Pastor Chris compared God's masterpieces to those found in world-renowned art museums. An artist's masterpiece is known by the particular characteristics of the artist's work. There are four distinct characteristics of God's work, and transformation is the first.

Three truths: **1)** The Gospel means change. Unlike religions that require an external conformity, Christians do not conform, we are transformed. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, God does not take our old life in an attempt to fix it. Instead, He removes our sin through salvation and creates us anew. Like a caterpillar allowed to develop, we experience a spiritual metamorphosis which was the message given to Nicodemus by Jesus in John 3:1-7. **2)** God loves us as we are but loves us too much to leave us that way. God is more than just grace as some believe. John 1:14 describes Jesus as full of grace and truth. Grace invites us to be free, but truth sets us free. This is beautifully illustrated in John 4 with the woman at the well. Jesus showed her grace, "Neither do I condemn you." He also shared the truth, "Go and sin no more." **3)** If I'm not changing, I might not really know God. 1 John 1:6-10 and 2:4-6 are clear that if we claim fellowship with Christ but walk in darkness, we are liars. On the contrary, 1 John 5:3 indicates that we do as Christ commands because we want to out of our love for Him because we have been changed.

Three applications: **1)** Get past who we were and focus on who God wants us to become. In Romans 1:1, Paul describes himself as Christ would, not based on the actions of his past. **2)** Give God permission to change everything. God wants to be more than our Sunday God—He wants to change every part of our life. Galatians 5:19-24 contrasts a life filled with the sins of the flesh with a life filled by the fruit of the Spirit. We move toward God by delighting ourselves in Him (Psalm 37:4-6) and allowing Him to give us desires and power to please Him (Philippians 2:13). **3)** Allow the change to begin today. Pastor Chris told the story of Marina Chapman, who was abducted and lived with monkeys for ten years. When she saw her reflection in a mirror, she became dissatisfied, realizing she was not a monkey. Eventually she was rescued and began to live the life she was created to live. That is the essence of 2 Corinthians 3:18, to see yourself in God's mirror and be transformed into the glory of the Lord.

"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 NLT)

Discussion Questions

- When we look in the mirror, we should see the image of God. What areas of your life have you allowed God to transform? How were you made new?
- What areas of your life still need the Master's brush strokes? How can you start surrendering this area today?

Prayer Focus

This week pray for the courage to look in the mirror and see the image God sees of you. Surrender your life to Him and give Him permission to transform you from the inside out.

Next Steps

You are encouraged to refrain from defending who you have been and allowing God to make you into the brand-new creation He intended you to be.

Leader Tip

Share with your group an example of how God has transformed your life.