

A few weeks ago we talked about

1. **The Passive obedience** of Jesus- which means that Jesus took our sin on Himself.
2. **The Active obedience** of Jesus - which means that Jesus earned our reward for us.

In Christ, we receive sonship, adoption into family, and righteousness; all the things the Father gives us belong to Jesus. They cost Him His life, but He lovingly grants them to us. The *active obedience* of Christ means He earned our reward for us. He took our curse *and* He earned our blessing.

How do you honestly feel about someone else doing the work for you?

Because you are this way...act this way! This sounds like a paradox until we understand Paul is saying that our life is hidden with God in Christ, so we can then live accordingly. "Be what you are. Take hold of what you really are. Let the peace of Christ rule." This working of Christ into our fundamental identity takes time, but walking and growing with Christ brings a freedom most people never experience. When Paul says to clothe yourselves in virtues like compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, that comes from a place of freedom found in Jesus.

Why is it important to first recognize who we are in Christ, rather than focus on behaviors?

Only when we know we are completely secure in His love will we have the strength to look at sin honestly; our holiness is not based upon us or our behaviors.

1. **Knowing you are accepted freely in Jesus makes you more compassionate.**

If you know you are saved by grace, that your acceptance by God is free and completely undeserved, you can look at a person who is a mess (physically, mentally, economically, socially) and realize that you are essentially the same. "But he who is forgiven little, loves little" (Luke 7:47).

2. **Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less.**

Understanding who we are keeps us from being tossed about by our ego. The great thing about the Gospel is that it is a message that destroys our ego and blesses us in spite of it.

How can/does the Gospel destroy our ego?

3. **There is always a wonder in our joy.**

Those who understand they are holy and loved, completely out of free grace, enjoy an "eternal surprise" about how and why we are saved.

How can a lack of compassion, humility, and joy reveal unbelief of God's rescue of us?

Be who you already are!