

i am the Church Pt. 1

First, God works in us by giving us grace through Jesus Christ.

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by grace you have been saved— Ephesians 2:1-5*

*5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 2 Peter 1:5-9*

God has saved us to a greater ethic for living.

*11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6:11*

*14 ...sin will have no dominion over you, Romans 6:14*

Though we may have the power to overcome sin, we may not have the will.

Eventually all of the great gifts that God has given to us must find an expression through us and into the world around us.

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10*

*“what is God wanting to do in, to, and through me?”*

*“what is God wanting to do in, to, and through us?”*

If we are headed in a direction that does not begin and end in God, we will fail.

*I will build my church, Matthew 16:18a*

*and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Matthew 16:18b*

**The best way to begin to change the world out there is to change the world right here.**

**There is a direct correlation between complete and total dependence on God and effectiveness as a church and individuals.**

***where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* Matthew 6:21**