

The Transformation of Christ

Col 2:6-12



Background

The Self-Love movement sweeping across the country and across social media has rightly taught us that loving others well begins with loving ourselves in a healthy way; but that message has also been twisted by some into a self-centered defensiveness that is unwilling to accept criticism – and certainly not a call to change. Join us on Sunday as we look into one of the most important promises God makes across the pages of Scripture -- the promise to change us from the inside-out -- and see why this is something worth celebrating.

Sermon Text: Col 2:6-12 (ESV)

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you the most?

2. Sunday questions

- a. Have you recognized the self-love movement in our world, captured in the lyrics to Shalamar's song, *Don't Try to Change Me*?

*Don't try to change me
Or rearrange me
Don't try it
Accept me for the way that I am
You know I love you
Oh, how I love you
But you got to understand
That I am what I am*

- b. Eugene discussed circumcision at length and the fact that in ancient Israel, it was a symbol of entrusting one's future to God. Have you entrusted your future to God? Do you have a symbol of this trust? (Eugene used a wedding ring as an example. Baptism could be another example. Luther especially hung onto his baptism as a symbol of his trust in Jesus).
- c. Eugene said we focus more on forgiveness than on transformation, probably because "forgiveness is comforting and transformation is challenging." Have you found this to be true in your thinking? Why or why not?
- d. What can you do in your life to put yourself in good positions for transformation to happen, for the "scalpel of the Spirit" to work? (Remember this is not earning salvation, this is effort in taking your faith seriously. In John's words, this is "abiding" in the vine (John 15:1-11).)
- e. Do you believe God's promise that He is willing and able to transform you? Why or why not? If so, make these words your prayer this week:

*Go ahead and change me
Please rearrange me
Don't stop it
Make me like who You are
I know You love me
Oh, how I trust You
And I truly understand
You are the Great I Am.*