

Getting a Jump on 2014

Week Three Implications of My Now

"My ability to extend the grace of the gospel to others is a direct result of who I am now."

Who Are You?

John 3:3

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

Titus 3:5

"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit"

I. Are you aware of who you are?

a. Have you been born again?

b. How does this new "nature" compare to our former "nature" (cf. Eph. 2:1-3 vs. 2 Cor. 6:1-7)?

II. Have you accepted who you are?

- a. How do you think and speak of yourself when you sin?

- b. What methods do you use to motivate good practices and ward off sinful practices?

- c. To what does Paul point when addressing how we handle temptation to sin (cf. Romans 6:1-7)?

Can you say that you are experiencing the freedom you have in Christ?

III. How should this awareness and acceptance change your treatment of others?

- a. How does the reality of your new identity make possible true change?

- b. How does your view of yourself affect how you view others?

- c. How would this understanding shape the way you counsel others who are struggling with sin (cf. Romans 6)