

SOUTH
SHORE
community church

GROWTH

rooted in the word



Truth about Ourselves



Truth About Ourselves

- Elephant stakes
- Our lives are limited by what we believe about ourselves.
- Ephesians 2:1-10, “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.



Truth About Ourselves

- Ephesians 2:1-10, “All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.



Truth About Ourselves

- And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.



Truth About Ourselves

- Ephesians 2:1-10, “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
- Let’s look at three key truths about ourselves



Truth About Ourselves

- **First, if we are going to be a mature follower of Jesus, we need to know that we are sinners.** Paul says, “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live . . . All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.” (dead; gratifying)



Truth About Ourselves

- **First, if we are going to be a mature follower of Jesus, we need to know that we are sinners.**
- Understanding our sinful nature is critical to developing humility, which is the mother of all virtues. We come in humility to be saved. We need humility to move deeper in intimacy & maturity. (Tom & Mary – disapproval) (elephant stake – pride)



Truth About Ourselves

- **Second, if we are going to be a mature disciple, we must believe that we are deeply loved by God.** Paul says, “Like the rest we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”



Truth About Ourselves

- **Second, if we are going to be a mature disciple, we must believe that we are deeply loved by God.**
- God knows everything about you. Your sinful acts, thoughts, and motives. And knowing it all, he still loves you enough to send Jesus for you. He didn't wait for you to clean up your act, or to get it right. (parent – baby)



Truth About Ourselves

- **Second, if we are going to be a mature disciple, we must believe that we are deeply loved by God.**
- You can only know the depths of God's love to the degree you can admit your sin. The more we admit our sin, the more we will know His love. (pretend self – can't receive love)



Truth About Ourselves

- Thomas Merton, “A current of useless interior activity constantly surrounds and defends an illusion... Man’s intelligence, however we may misuse it, is far too keen and too sure to rest for long in error. It may embrace a lie and cling to it stubbornly, believing it to be true: but it cannot find rest in falsehood.



Truth About Ourselves

- Thomas Merton, “The mind that is in love with error wears itself out with anxiety, lest it be discovered for what it is. . . The first step toward finding God, Who is Truth, is to discover the truth about myself: and if I have been in error, this first step is the discovery of my error.”



Truth About Ourselves

- **Second, if we are going to be a mature disciple, we must believe that we are deeply loved by God.**
- God's love is expressed in forgiveness.
- God's love is expressed in adoption.
(listening prayer)
- God's love is expressed in our authority.
(seated with Christ) (rich man's credit card)



Truth About Ourselves

- **Third, if we are going to be a mature disciple, we must believe that God has a purpose for our lives.** We were created for significance. Paul says, “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”



Truth About Ourselves

- **Third, if we are going to be a mature disciple, we must believe that God has a purpose for our lives.**
- God wants us to join him in advancing His kingdom. He has given us authority to extend His rule & reign on the planet. (Investment in disciple making is job #1)
- God wants us to be open to Spirit promptings, divine appointments.