

Identifying My Self With Christ — How God Grows Us #2

Church by the Sea ~ Madeira Beach, FL

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To what level do I identify my self with Christ?

2 Corinthians 5:17 ^(NLT) This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

John 15:5 ^(NIV) I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

❖ Maturing Christians live their daily life with an awareness of the LORD's presence, a dependence on His strength & an obedience to His calling

1 Peter 2:21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

I. Jesus Showed Us the Right Response to Suffering

"It is doubtful that God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply." — A.W. Tozer

1. Righteous suffering happens in life of a Christian

Hebrews 5:8 ^(NLT) Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.

2. The key to bear godly suffering is humbleness

Philippians 2:6-7 ^(NIV) Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

II. Jesus Had Right Response When Sinned Against

1. Acknowledge your hurt — do not deny it

Matthew 16:21-22 ^(NLT) From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead.

²² But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. "Heaven forbid, Lord," he said. "This will never happen to you!"

2. Stay connected to godly people — do not isolate

Matthew 26:37-38 ^(NLT) He took Peter and James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. ³⁸ He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

3. God's ultimate goal is love & forgiveness — do not retaliate

Matthew 5:39 ^(NLT) But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also.