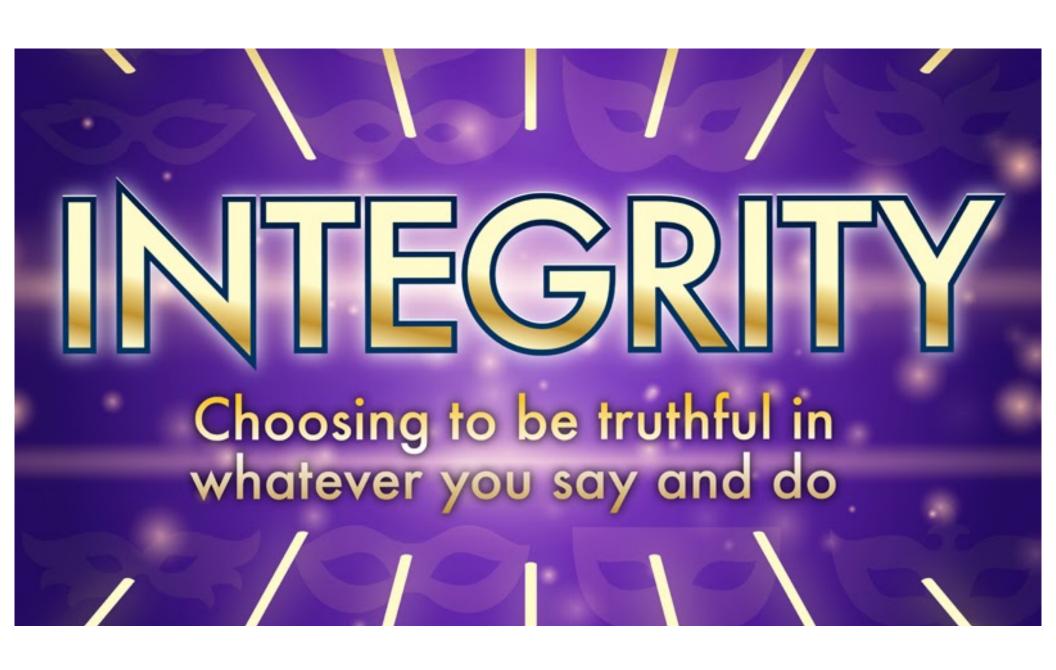




Sunday Life Groups

Fall 2020







Message Four: You Must Surrender

### You are God's masterpiece!



For we are God's masterpiece.

He has created us anew in Christ Jesus,
so we can do the good things
he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2: 10 NLT



### You are broken!



Have mercy on me, O God,
because of your unfailing love; ...
For I recognize my rebellion (brokenness),
it haunts me day and night.
Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;
I have done what is evil in your sight. ...
For I was born a sinner (broken) yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.

Psalm 51: 1a, 3-4a & 5 NLT



### You are chosen!



For consider what he (God) has done before the foundation of the world
he chose us to become,
in Christ (Jesus),
his holy and blameless (innocent) children
living within his constant care (in love).

Ephesians 1: 4 PHILLIPS



# Everyone is invited to discover their identity ...



## IN CHRIST



There is no phrase or formula which occurs with greater frequency in the New Testament than this, "in Christ."

It sometimes varies in translations
when "by" and "through" and "with" are used,
and sometimes in the original text it changes in form,
e.g. "in Christ Jesus," "in him," etc.,
but in all the 200 times of its occurrence
the principle is the same. In the whole range of
Christian dogma there is nothing more expressive,
and yet nothing less understood and appreciated.

T. Austin-Sparks: *In Christ (1931)* 



### Are you in Christ (Jesus)?





Jesus said to all his followers, "If you truly desire to be my disciple (come after me), you must disown (deny) your life (self) completely, embrace (take up) my 'cross' as your own (daily), and surrender to my ways (follow me). For if you choose self-sacrifice (lay down your life), giving up (losing) your lives for my glory, you will embark on a discovery of more and more of true life (i.e. True ID).

Luke 9: 23-24a TPT

But if you choose to keep (save) your lives or yourself, you will lose what you try to keep. Even if you gained all the wealth and power of this world, everything it could offer you, yet you lost your soul (soulprint) in the process, what good is that? So why then are you ashamed of being my disciple? Are you ashamed of the revelation-truth I give you?

Luke 9: 24b-26 TPT

DEFINED

**JOHN 3: 16** 

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**LUKE 9: 23** 



Christ says, "Give me all. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work; I want you. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half measures are any good. I don't want to cut off a branch here and a branch there. I want to have the whole tree down. I don't want to drill the tooth, or crown it, or stop it, but to have it out.

C. S. Lewis: *Mere Christianity* (1952)

When Christ calls a man, he bids (invites) him "come and die."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Cost of Discipleship

1937



Therefore,

if anyone is in Christ (surrendered to Jesus), the new creation (person) has come: The old (life) has gone, the new (life) is here! All this is (a gift) from God,

who reconciled us to himself through Christ (Jesus)
and gave us the ministry (task) of reconciliation:

That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, ...

2 Corinthians 5: 17-20a NIV



#### **3 QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

- 1. How far off were (or are) you when God called you to follow? What did God use to draw you?
- 2. What kind of relationship does Jesus want to have with us? What are his terms to "follow"?
- 3. What does the statement: "There can be no John 3: 16 without Luke 9: 23" mean to you?



