

**JOURNEY**

**— CHURCH TAMPA —**

**D O W N T O W N**

# Colossians 3:12-17

**12** Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:12-17

# New Year's Resolutions

What if we care less about what we achieve in 2017, and  
more about the people that we become?

“We intend what is right, but we avoid the life that makes  
that a reality.”

Dallas Willard

# Becoming Like Jesus

“The most important thing in your life is not what you do; it’s who you become. That’s what you will take into eternity.”

Dallas Willard



We Confuse the Road For the Destination

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 12:1-3

# We Confuse the Road For the Destination: Following Jesus Is Not the Destination, but the Start Of Our Formation

- The path of formation always takes us somewhere new
- The path of formation leaves the comfortable and familiar
- Spiritual formation begins at the point of apprenticeship

"A journey is like marriage. The certain way to be wrong is  
to think you control it."

John Steinbeck

By an act of faith, Abraham said yes to God's call to travel to an unknown place that would become his home. When he left he had no idea where he was going. By an act of faith he lived in the country promised him, lived as a stranger camping in tents. Isaac and Jacob did the same, living under the same promise. Abraham did it by keeping his eye on an unseen city with real, eternal foundations—the City designed and built by God.

Hebrews 11:8-10, The Message

“This life therefore is not righteousness,  
but growth in righteousness,  
not health, but healing,  
not being but becoming,  
not rest but exercise.

We are not yet what we shall be,  
but we are growing toward it,  
the process is not yet finished, but it is going on,  
this is not the end, but it is the road.  
All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.”

Martin Luther

This year we will be asked to step out in faith. To confess that we are "not yet what we shall be but we are growing toward it."

Being formed in Christ's likeness may lead us away from security, safety, and the familiar. However, we can have faith in God's promises, like Abraham did.

We Are Called To Become Like Jesus



**12** Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,  
**13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

# We Are Called To Become Like Jesus: We Do This By Practicing Virtues

- Virtues are good moral habits
- Virtues are the Christ-follower's "New Clothes"
- These virtues are developed by practice and imitation

“If you want to know who God is, look at Jesus. If you want to know what it means to be human, look at Jesus. If you want to know what love is, look at Jesus. If you want to know what grief is, look at Jesus. And go on looking until you’re not just a spectator, but you’re actually part of the drama which has him as the central character.”

N.T. Wright

**14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

**15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

To become like Jesus we have to realize and respond to our call to join the story of God's redemption for the whole world.

We do this by practicing the good moral habits that Jesus embodies and calls us to embody as well.

Becoming Like Christ Means Virtues  
Become Second-Nature

“Spiritual formation in Christ is not a passive process. Grace does not make us passive. Divine grace is God acting in our life to accomplish what we cannot do on our own. It informs our being and actions and makes them effective in the wisdom and power of God. Hence, grace is not opposed to effort but to earning.”

Dallas Willard

# Becoming Like Christ Means Virtues Become Second-Nature: Christ-like Formation Occurs By Engaging In Worship Practices of the One, True God

- We have to immerse ourselves in the rhythms of worship
- Disciplines of worship are study, praise, celebration, prayer, fellowship, confession, and submission
- We immerse ourselves in rhythms of worship during our Church Services: Praise, Confession, Word of God, Communion, Assurance of Forgiveness



**16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,  
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your  
hearts to God.

“Because here's something else that's weird but true: in the day-to day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And the compelling reason for maybe choosing some sort of god or spiritual-type thing to worship—be it JC or Allah, be it YHWH or the Wiccan Mother Goddess, or the Four Noble Truths, or some inviolable set of ethical principles—is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough, never feel you have enough. It's the truth.

Worship your body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly. And when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally grieve you.

On one level, we all know this stuff already. It's been codified as myths, proverbs, clichés, epigrams, parables; the skeleton of every great story. The whole trick is keeping the truth up front in daily consciousness."

David Foster Wallace

To walk the path of spiritual formation this year, our vision and posture should align with that of Jesus' apprentice.

Let us commit to engaging in rhythms to weave these good moral habits into our innermost being, so that we become who we're called to be, a Christ-like people.

“All we have to decide is what to do with the time  
that is given us.”

Gandalf the Grey

When we live lives of worship to God, we walk with the easy yoke, for His burden is light (Matt. 11:29).

The path of formation may be difficult (it will cost us our lives) but can never crush us, because God's promises are real and true. Only in Him will we find rest.

Our punishment has been taken and our reward has been earned. By grace we can enjoy the richness, substance, and eternal assurance that is offered from a life of worshipping God.

This year, we're determined to be formed and shaped into Jesus Christ's apprentices, as God's chosen daughters and sons, holy and beloved, with a compassionate heart, with kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, we will bear with one another and, if we are hurt by someone or feel insulted, we will demonstrate forgiveness to them. We know the Lord God has forgiven us and that itself shows us how we should also forgive. And above all these we will put on love, which holds everything together in perfect a bond.

And we will let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, to which indeed we have been called in one Church body. And we will be thankful! We will let the word of Christ dwell within us each, richly, we will engage in the teaching and the admonishing in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in our hearts to God. We will let every detail in our lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.



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**D O W N T O W N**

King of My Heart

Let the King of my heart  
be the mountain where I run

The Fountain I drink from  
Oh He is my Song

Let the King of my heart  
be the shadow where I hide  
the ransom for my life

Oh He is my Song

You are good, good

Let the King of my heart  
be the wind inside my sails

The anchor in the waves  
Oh He is my Song

Let the King of my heart  
the fire inside my veins  
the echo of my days

Oh He is my Song

You are good, good

You're never gonna let me down

When the night is holding onto me  
God is holding on



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There is nothing we have that we have not received; all we have and are belong to God bought with the blood of Jesus.

To spend everything on ourselves, and to give without sacrifice is the way of the world that the Father cannot abide.

But generosity is the way of those who call Christ their Lord; who love him with free hearts, and serve him with renewed minds; who withstand the delusion of riches that chokes the word; whose hearts are in heaven, and not on earth.

We are determined to increase in generosity until it can be said that there is no needy person among us.

We are determined to be faithful stewards of such a little thing as money that Christ may trust us with true riches.

Above all things, we are determined to be generous because our Father is generous.

It is the delight of His daughters and sons to share their Father's traits, and to show what He is like to all the world.

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