



Renewal

Deeply Fallen

WORSHIP

Read Psalm 32:1-7 aloud. Take a moment to reflect on God's Word and center in Him.

FELLOWSHIP

During this 8-week series, we are encouraging the whole church to utilize a set of questions and exercises to help us reflect on Identity and then create a personal Rule of Life. Invite your group to download the Renewal Plan guide and find more resources at christchurchil.org/renewal.

This week we will reflect on how we see ourselves.
What are currently 3 or 4 of your top priorities?

Does anyone have an insight to share from exploring what God's Word says about our identity last week?

DISCUSSION

Read Genesis 3. (Or read and answer the questions for verses 1-13, then 14-24).

What does this passage teach us about God?

Where do you notice God's mercy (i.e., not giving us what we deserve) and grace (i.e., giving us what we don't deserve)?

What does this passage teach us about sin and the human condition?

Do you see yourself as “deeply fallen”?

How would you respond to someone who says, “Don’t be so negative. People are basically good.”?

How would you respond to someone who says, “I’m a terrible person. There is no way God can love me.”?

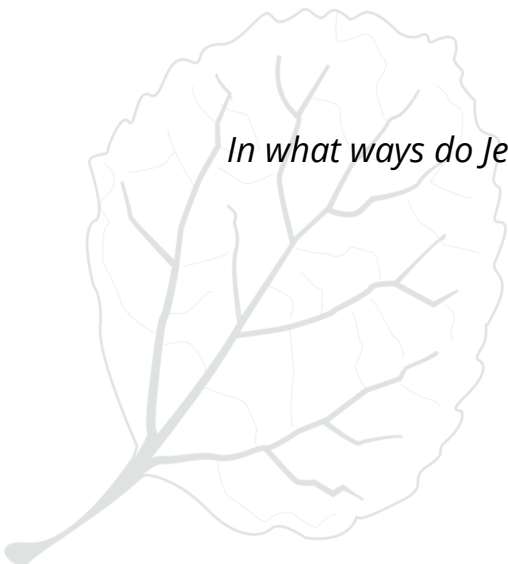
Theologian Cornelius Plantinga, Jr. writes,

"God hates sin not just because it violates his law but, more substantively, because it violates shalom, because it breaks the peace, because it interferes with the way things are supposed to be...In short, sin is culpable shalom-breaking."(1)

Do you agree with his definition of sin as “culpable shalom-breaking”?

When have you experienced sin (your own or systemic sin) interfering with “the way things are supposed to be”?

In what ways do Jesus’ death and resurrection restore shalom?





PRAYER

In light of what we're learning about our sin and our need for a Savior, spend some time in confession together using the guide below.

Leader, read Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Silently ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of your sin, confess specific sins to God, and seek forgiveness by His grace.

After a minute or two, read this confession from the Book of Common Prayer together:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Leader, read: "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness...If anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 1:8-9; 2:1b-2).

Then share prayer requests, and pray for group, church, and community needs together.

FOOTNOTE

1 Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995), 14.