

## 01/21/18 | Improving Ours: Marriage, Week Three

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"*

—2 Corinthians 5:17 | NIV



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How have you changed for the better in addressing your spouses' needs? Do you encourage your married friends to be better husbands/wives, or do you empathize with their marital struggles? How much would you give/spend/release to improve your marriage?
2. In what ways do you change when you are around different people and groups? Why do we do this?
3. If applicable, how did you change when you met and married your spouse? What were some of the easiest changes? What were some of the hardest changes?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 above. Do you remember how you changed when you met and decided to follow Jesus? What were some of the hardest and easiest changes then? Are you continuing to change now?
5. Consider this quote. What is it saying? How does forgiveness require change on both sides? When you look at how much you have changed, does it make it easier to realize how much another (like your spouse) has changed or could change?

*"A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers."*  
—Ruth Bell Graham

### Old Has Gone

5. Read Romans 1:18-25 and 2:5-12. What is it like for people to be without Christ? What are some key words of these passages that stick out to you?

6. Read Ephesians 2:1-3. What was our situation before God saved us? How would you feel if you were stuck in that situation?

### **The Transformation**

7. Read Romans 3:21-24. What came from God? Who is justified? How?
8. Read Ephesians 2:4-7. What did God do? What did we do?
9. Read Galatians 3:22-25. How were we prisoners? How were we set free?

### **New Has Come**

10. Read Romans 6:17-18, 22. Unbelievers are slaves to what? Believers are slaves to what?
11. Read Ephesians 4:21-24. What are the differences between the old self and the new self?
12. Read Galatians 3:26-29 and 4:7. What's the difference between slaves and sons?
13. What are some key words that stick out to you about our new situation in Christ?
14. When we change, how much of it is because of us, and how much of it is because of God? How does that affect the way you look at your past? How does that affect the way you look at your future? How does that affect the way you look at forgiveness?

**TAKEAWAY:** Pray for your spouse in your daily time with God.