

## I. ME

- A. Welcome
- B. Series- Becoming on purpose
- C. All want a better life
- D. Path to a great life is actually pretty counter-intuitive
- E. It's not easy, you have to work for it, you have to do things you don't want to do in order to become who you want to be.
- F. Nothing is more counter-intuitive than this secret...

## II. YOU

- A. **Always focusing on you keeps you from becoming the you you want to become.**
  - 1. The more you focus on making yourself happy the worse your life becomes...
  - 2. Try to get more money, change your looks, change your personality, upgrade your spouse... never works.
  - 3. If you were able to get everything you wanted, look exactly the way you want, have the life you think you want... you still wouldn't be happy.
  - 4. Eventually, you would STILL want something more or different than what you have.
- B. Where are those standards coming from?
  - 1. Comparing yourself to someone else.
  - 2. "If I only had their money, house, kids, opportunities, husband... then I'd be happy."
- 3. **When you compare life always seems unfair**
- 4. And that kind of person never exists... you've created a weird mixture of a bunch of different people.

- 5. No one person has the qualities you're wanting... we all do it.
- C. Whether Jesus-Follower or Not- The way to become who you really want to be isn't by getting what you want... it's by giving yourself away.
  - 1. Focusing your life on others... **Outward Focus.**
  - 2. You know this is true from experience
  - 3. Some of the happiest people you know or have heard of are also some of the most selfless.
- D. Science tells us the same thing
  - 1. **Studies show- Most satisfying jobs involved...**
    - a. Caring for others
    - b. Teaching others
    - c. Protecting others
    - d. Creative pursuits (bringing beauty to others)
  - 2. There was no link between higher salary and happiness.
  - 3. Another study that reviewed 40 other studies spanning 20 years looking at the link between volunteering regularly and health
  - 4. **Volunteering decreases-**
    - a. Depression, heart disease, stress
    - b. Teens- Drug use and unplanned pregnancies (even if they are forced to volunteer)
  - 5. **Volunteering Increases-**
    - a. Psychological well-being
    - b. Physical health
    - c. Self-esteem
    - d. Longevity
    - e. Quality of life.
- E. **Focusing on what's best for others is what's best for you.**

- F. Why?
1. It's how we are designed.
  2. We are designed to operate best when we do what's best for others.
  3. Problem is there is always a fight between what's best for us and what we think is the best for us.
  4. Selflessness V. Selfishness.
- G. Biblical writers call that pull toward selfishness, sin.
1. Sin separates us from God and others
  2. **Sin separates us into our own self-centered worlds**
  3. All trying to create our own kingdoms of happiness where everything that is done is FOR us.
  4. Sin tells me to spend all of my money, time, energy on me.
  5. Sin tells me that other people are either obstacles or tools for me to get what I want
- H. The Apostle Paul lays out these two approaches to life
1. He calls them "Life in the Flesh and "Life in the Spirit"
  2. Living for yourself or living as designed by God.
  3. What we find is... **If you want your life to become something more you have to focus on your self less.**

### III. **GOD (Galatians 5:19-24)**

#### **A. Background of Galatians**

1. Roman province in Turkey
2. Paul started church there
3. Judaizers came and tried to impose Jewish rules on Jesus-Followers

#### **B. Background of passage**

1. Following Jesus is not about following the law of the OT
2. Gonna follow the requirements go all the way
3. "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."
4. Love that is not based on our emotions or efforts...
5. But God's love and allowing his love to shine through us and transform us through his Spirit.

#### **C. Galatians 5:19-21 (First Option)**

1. **Flesh-** Whatever you would do naturally if left to do whatever you naturally want. Lord of the Flies.
2. **Debauchery-** Excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures
3. **Idolatry-** Trying to get the gods to do what you want / give you what you want.
  - a. Most religion
  - b. **Religion is selfish**—getting what you want from God/gods for YOU.
  - c. Tough question = What's your religion about?
4. **Witchcraft-** trying to harness the powers of nature to get me what I want or have control over others and my world.
5. You can never fully satisfy these cravings... the more you get the more you want

6. Why are all of these “bad”- why won’t they inherit the kingdom?

7. B/c the bible says so? Bad before Paul wrote them...

8. B/c they are all about getting what you want at the expense of others.

9. Everything these people do is about them... they have not been transformed. Changed.

10. They have not BECOME who they were designed to be.

D. **Galatians 5:22-23** (Option 2)

1. **Fruit of the Spirit**- result of Following Jesus. What you become.
  - a. When we admit that being about us is not working
  - b. When we admit we can’t actually be who we were meant to be on our own
  - c. Realize that left on our own we are only about us... and can’t do anything about it.
  - d. Choose to trust Jesus to forgive and transform you
  - e. It’s who you start becoming.

2. All of these are rooted in doing what’s best for others.

3. And opposite of flesh (never satisfy-more you get the more you want)

4. The more you give out the more satisfied you become.

5. This is who you were designed to be.

6. Would life be better?

7. As I said before, the path to a great life is counter-intuitive... **The more selfless you are the happier you are**

#### IV. YOU

A. Where’s your focus?

B. Inward?

1. Your wants, comfort, appetites?

2. Every decision you make is based on what you want?

3. People are there to serve you

4. You’ve paid your dues, now it’s your time?

5. How has that worked out for you?

6. OR... Another aspect- **God is there to serve you?**

7. Bought into selfish Religion? God bless me, Pastor feed me, music move me, people serve me

8. Worried more about God/others thinking you’re spiritual than worried about how you treat your spouse/kids/co-workers/parents?

9. Spend all your time with people just like you... running from bible study to bible study?

10. Without any time to actually get to know or love people who have never heard that God is FOR them?

11. Just b/c we put religious words to it doesn’t mean our focus isn’t ourselves.

C. Either way, whether you disguise it as religion or not... **Focusing only on you hurts everyone around you**

1. Has what you’re focusing on made you more loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, or controlled?

#### **D. Jesus invites you/everyone to so much more and so much**

##### **better**

1. Transforming relationship is a free gift
2. Sin separates
3. God loves/must punish sin
4. Jesus
5. Faith
6. New Life/Identity- **V. 24**
7. New Outward Focus.

#### **E. Offer to Accept**

#### **F. Crosscreek**

1. If you are a Jesus-Follower Crosscreek is not about what you can get... it's about what you can become as you love as Jesus loves.
2. Church ultimately is not about you/me
3. It's about focusing our time, money, energy, lives on those Jesus died for.
4. Our focus is not on us... not on our preferences.
5. Don't let your preferences keep people from discovering God's love.
6. If you're not a Jesus-Follower, Crosscreek is a place you can belong before, or even if you never, believe.
7. A place to explore and even test to see if what I'm saying is true... Does Jesus really transform the way I'm describing?

#### **G. All of us- What if we took a little extra time to focus more on what's going on with our neighbors**

1. Focusing more on how we can be for them then how they might bother or annoy us?
2. What #ForSalem is all about- **Next Sunday at Schirle**

#### **V. WE**

- A. What are you becoming?
- B. Who do you want to be?
- C. At the end of your life what do you want them to say?
  1. "Who gets their stuff?" OR
  2. "I'm a better person for having known them."
  3. "The way they gave changed my life."

#### **D. What Jesus said- **Luke 9:23-25****

#### **E. Andy Stanley- The value of a life is measured by how much of it is given away.**

- F. Become who you want to be by focusing your life on the good of others.

#### **G. Great lives are focused outward.**