

Scripture Reference: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Date: August 4, 2013

Title: "Did Jesus Live a Sinless Life?"

Focus: The sinlessness of Jesus is the key to a relationship with God (Biblical World View Series 2 of 10).

Intro:

1. In our present reality the struggle with sin is a daily, momently issue. We cannot imagine being free from sin. Therefore, it is inconceivable to us Jesus could be sinless.
2. That is the testimony of the Bible. It is also the point upon which being able to call one's self a Christian hangs. Because Jesus is sinless, it is possible for you to be spiritually reborn.

Body:

vv. 16-17; Christianity is about a Person Becoming a New Creature

Being a Christian is a spiritual transformation resulting in a person becoming a reproduction of Jesus. (vv. 16-17)

It entails:

Salvation from the penalty of his sin.

Entrance into a new standing with God,

Learning from Jesus in daily living.

Over time it has devolved into something else.

For some Christianity is about:

Trying to earn favor with God.

Avoiding Hell and *going* to Heaven.

A moral endeavor, focused on being a good person.

However, these are imitations. Christianity is all about spiritual transformation, becoming a reproduction of Jesus.

vv. 18-20; Christianity is a God Initiated Experience

This event is beyond the realm and ability of man to produce or secure. "*Now all these things are from God...*" (v. 18a)

It entails the working of God through the event of the cross. "*....who reconciled us to Himself through Christ.*" (v. 18b)

Through Jesus' death on the cross, God does "*not [count] their trespasses against them.*" (v. 19)

This is Good News (The Gospel) and God has given to those who have experienced it the task of sharing it with those who have not. "*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ.*" (v. 20)

v. 21; How Can Such an Event Occur?

Spiritual transformation hinges on *imputation* - To *impute* means to "assign as a characteristic; to credit."

A person is saved from the penalty of sin because God assigns his sin to Jesus, who never sinned.

A person enters into a new relationship with God because God credits Jesus' righteousness to him who could never earn it.

A person learns daily from Jesus because God accepts us as He does Jesus.

An Example from Life: How can a person contaminated with Leukemia become cancer free? It is accomplished through the transplant of uninfected bone marrow into the infected host.

In a much more dynamic fashion, God imputes the death of Jesus to our old nature, it dies.

He then credits the nature of Jesus to us. He becomes a new creature, free from the control of sin. He sees the redeemed person just as He would Jesus.

Closing:

1. Was Jesus sinless? Yes, He demonstrated this in His life and he being raised from the dead by God testified to it.
2. Jesus' sinlessness is the key to salvation and a new life with God.