

Good, Better, Best

In Spite of Myself

There are two kinds of family. There's the family you were born into and the family that raised you. Sometimes that's the same family, but in today's new world order, that's not necessarily so. Whether we're born with a personality and propensities for how we think and the choices we'll make, or whether it's how we're raised that imprints all that into our psyche, virtually everyone believes that your family played a crucial role in helping you become who you are today. But what if your family isn't done with you? What if in your life they've got more "raising" to do? What would that look like?

Judges 6:11–16

1. Eastern Theology – _____: Humanity was created in the image of God and that image remains at the core.
2. Western Theology – _____: The fall corrupted the image of God and left the inability to be or do good at the core.
3. Christianity isn't a _____ ... it's a life commitment that's longer than a _____.
4. We have to learn to see through _____ eyes, not _____ eyes.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I want to commit recommit my life to following Jesus
- I want to be in a Life Group
- I'm ready to start Directions Discipleship Course

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Scripture: Judges 6:11–16

Introduction: Self-esteem, or the lack of it, has become a pandemic. But it's nothing new. From the "fall" of Adam and Eve, we've all known that who we are isn't anywhere near who we could be. When we read verses like, "All have sinned and fallen short" (Romans 3:23) deep inside there's a voice that not only agrees, but tries to rub our noses in it. On one level, we might agree that as followers of Jesus we know we've been adopted as children of God, but that's a far stretch from embracing the notion that we're princes and princesses of the King.

1. Are you a glass half empty or a glass half full kind of person? Can you share an example that "proves" your point?
2. When you think about humanity, are you more an Imago Dei theologian or a Total Depravity theologian? Why?
3. Read Judges 6:1–24. Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress. Wine presses were traditionally built in valleys to protect the wine from the dust that the would wind blow, and threshing was typically done on the hilltops so the wind would help separate the grain from the stalk. Why was Gideon trying to thresh wheat in a winepress? Would you say he was a mighty man of valor or something else? Why?
4. Why did Gideon think that God had abandoned Israel? What assurances did the angel give Gideon regarding God's intervention?
5. What do you think God saw in Gideon that he didn't see in himself? What do you think God sees in you that you don't see yourself?
6. What are you doing to help God peel back some of the layers you've built around you?
7. What would you say to someone who shared that they tried God when they got into a jam, but that God didn't come through so they were done with God?

Who will you invite to worship with you this week?
