

Oxford Baptist Church - June 24, 2018 – Pastor Robin W. Pifer
Summer Series – New Community – Message: The Right Heart for the New Community

Genesis 2-3; Titus 2:11-14; John 5:1-15; Proverbs 28:13

Experience Spiritual Transformation by facing your unfinished business with Jesus Christ.

Have you ever had to face unfinished business? Do you ever feel stuck in your spiritual life? What is unfinished business?

It is simply whatever emotional, mental, and spiritual baggage you continue to carry. It is what traps you into living out your life in unhealthy ways, hiding behind the mask of “I’m okay” or “I will survive.”*
Facing whatever the real problem is in our life.

Reformation = Truth plus trusting in your own strength to do the truth.
Transformation = Truth plus trusting in God’s strength to perform the truth in you. *

Our only choices are addiction or health. Wounds to our hearts > Sin in Me > Sinful Responses – Anger, Lust, Gluttony, Envy, Greed, Sloth, Pride > Outward Symptoms – Seven Deadly Sins lead to a false comfort/addictions.
All sin is addictive.

Before I believed in Jesus, I did not have the power to be good for God.
After I believed in Jesus, I did not have the power to be good for God. But what is different now is the Holy Spirit lives in me.

Your Journey with the Lord has markers to measure spiritual progress. Real Change and Healing of the Heart is from the Lord.

Fruit of the Spirit – Gal 5:22

The Beatitudes – The Marks of Spiritual Growth. (Progressive) Matt 5:1-12

- Humility: Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. 1Peter 5:5
- Grieve: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 2Cor 1:3-11; 1John 1:9
- Submission: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

- Focus: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Matt 6:33
- Compassion: Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy.
- Clarity/Purity: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Your heart and mind are being refocused. Romans 12:2
- Transformation: Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Ephesians 2:14
- Persecution: Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. 1Peter 4:3-4; 2Tim 3:12; Luke 23:34;

*Adapted by Dr Steve Smith, The Key to Deep Change.

Go on by Faith. Do you want to get well?

- **Faith is different from Magic.**
- **Take Up your Mat – Personal Responsibility**
- **What is the next step the Lord wants you to take? Am I hearing what the Lord is saying?**
- **Does the step touch my soul?**
- **Am I experiencing hope rather than despair in taking this step?**

Life Group Questions

1. How has this message encouraged you to deal with your unfinished business with the Lord or others?
2. When people’s hearts are right with the Lord, how does this impact the local church community?
3. What effects happen in a local church when people are not allowing the Lord to transform them?
4. How has this teaching on the beatitudes encouraged you in seeing that the Christian life is a process or a journey of transformation?
5. Reread John 5:1-15. How is this situation different from Jesus’ encounter in John 9:1-12? How/Why did Jesus respond differently to each of these men?
6. Take time and personally reflect this week on this teaching. Listen to the Lord. Pray and Read the scriptures connected with this message and take the next step(s) with the Lord for personal transformation.