

## **Follower of Jesus - A New Sunday Evening Series in 1 Peter**

Sunday May 5th in our 6:00 PM Evening Worship at Covenant Road, we will begin a sermons series from 1 Peter entitled "Followers of Jesus". Simon Peter was a first century uneducated Galilean fisherman who became a follower of Jesus Christ when Jesus called him personally. He seems to have been naturally bold and yet brittle. In the gospel accounts we see Peter as bold and impetuous, and yet fearful and failing. He goes to great heights of understanding in confessing Jesus as the Christ (Matthew 16:16), and to great depths denying his association with Jesus the God-man (Matthew 26:69-75). Yet, through all of this he knew the faithfulness and loving kindness of Jesus and lived as his follower by faith through his grace until his death. Who better to learn from about what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ?

The doctrine of this letter is powerful yet simple. We will discover what it means to followers of Jesus from the questions of our beginnings and identity to the practical areas of understanding how to follow Jesus in our church and home. We will also learn what it means to be a follower of Jesus in suffering. Suffering was something Peter seemed to avoid as we read about his life in the gospels. However, as he learned from the Suffering Servant his Savior, suffering defines a follower of Jesus Christ in every area of life. Peter helps those he's writing to understand this reality. We hope you will come and grow with us as a follower of Jesus through this series during the months of May and June.

## **Women's Ministry Team - "Give It Up"**

The Women's Ministry of Christ Covenant Church is holding a "Give It Up!" fundraising campaign from May-December 2019. Proceeds from the campaign will go toward:

- ❖ The purchase of a dishwasher/disposal for Petersen Hall;
- ❖ A scholarship fund for the Fall Women's Retreat;
- ❖ A 10% tithe to the Palmetto Presbytery Women's Ministry.

What can you give up to help our cause - - - a daily latte? A manicure? Your favorite magazine? Or all your spare change? Grab a jar and let's see what we can do together! Jars will be available in the Narthex at Barnwell Street beginning Sunday May 5th. Please take one jar per household. When the jar is full, bring it to the church office and you can fill it up again! There is no limit!!

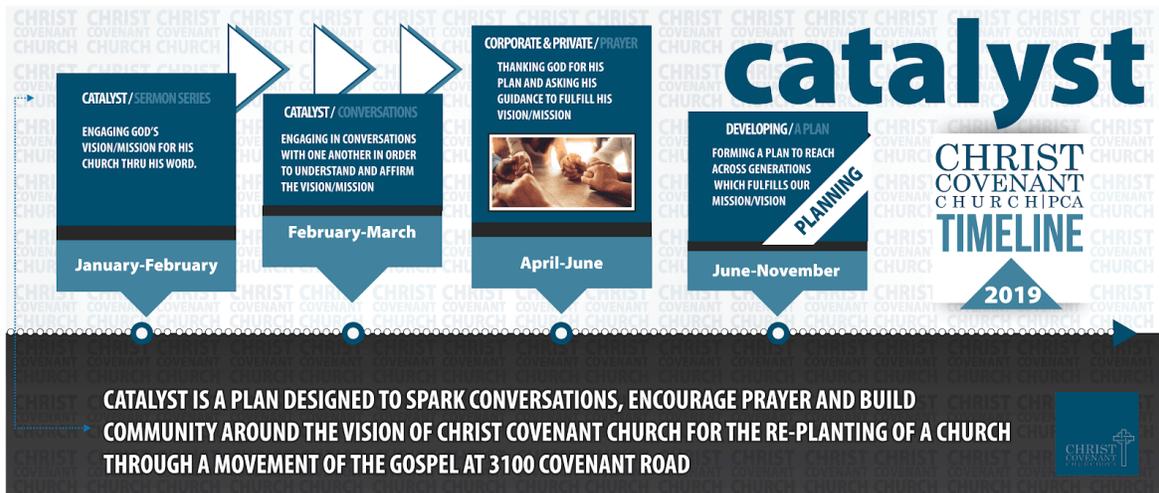
## **Change and Our Relationships**

God is changing his children. The good work that he has begun in his children through faith in Jesus Christ, he will bring to completion through the same grace filled faith in Jesus Christ (Phil.1:6; 2:13). Yet this change will not occur apart from his plan for our relationships. God has a plan for change through good relationships that we build by his grace. But what makes for good relationships.

Good relationships are built on the foundations of identity and worship. Identity has to do with how you define yourself. We define ourselves on things like talent, qualities, experiences, achievements, goals, beliefs, relationships and dreams. We look at these things in our lives and say, "This is who I am." Worship has to do with things we live for. We talk about the things we live for with words like - desires, goals, treasures, passions, purposes, values, and cravings. These things control our hearts (the whole of our lives). What we believe and do about how we define ourselves and the things we live for shape the way we live with other people in our lives. Therefore, we need to live out a grace and truth based sense of who we are (identity) and who God is (worship), to build healthy relationships for change.

The identity we assign ourselves or the one given to us, will always affect the way we live toward others. Adam and Eve were given an identity by God that made them dependent upon him to serve one another. They made themselves independent from God and deserving of more than he gave them. This lead to them living to be served by one another. Either we get our identity vertically, out of who God is and who is for us in our union with Christ, or we seek our identity horizontally, out of our circumstances, relationships, and successes. Where we find our identity will have everything to do with how we respond to the difficult work of relationships. If all you've ever wanted is for \_\_\_\_\_ to make you happy. Then \_\_\_\_\_ is toast. But if in God and in your union with Christ through his Spirit you find your identity and joy then you will share your daily bread with others.

In relationships with others we will also find that what we worship (our treasure) is what will control us (where our hearts will be (Mt.6:19-24). When we treasure and value God, we will serve and love others. When we treasure something else other than God, we serve and value ourselves. When we say God is our Creator on Sunday, and then the remainder of the week we try to recreate others in our own likeness, we have ascended the throne. If we are going to value others and benefit from their differences, we must look at them and see the wisdom of their Creator, then love and serve them. God is sovereignty writing the stories of our lives and the roles that others play in the unfolding plot are for his glory and our's and other's good. In that story we are sinners saved by grace living as worshippers who are in the middle of God's work of redemption with others who are also in the middle. We cannot be casual toward sin our lives while we're serious about others. Good relationship are built on a true identity and true worship.



## Catalyst Prayer

Catalyst Prayer is a season (April - June) of corporate and private prayer for the Vision and Mission of CCC, and her future planning. Please pray with us privately and corporately by using the weekly "Catalyst Prayer Theme". Also, sign up to pray during the Day of Prayer May 22nd.

## Catalyst Prayer Theme # 5 - Ministry Together

The Mission and Vision of Christ Covenant Church are centered in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, our Mission is: *Living in and Living Out the Gospel in Worship, Life, and Ministry Together* What we do - *Ministry Together* - is not possible without the gospel. Therefore, we pray together that we will experience gospel renewal that we may do *Ministry Together* at CCC:

- ❖ *In our Ministry Together at CCC we would proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.* Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. - Acts 8:4; For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. - 1 Thessalonians 1:8
- ❖ *In our Ministry Together at CCC we would manifest the power of the gospel in our deeds of love to our neighbors.* So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. - Galatians 6:10
- ❖ *In our Ministry Together at CCC we would love mercy, do justice, and walk humbly with God.* He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8
- ❖ *In our Ministry Together at CCC we would love the poor.* Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him. - Proverbs 14:31
- ❖ *In our Ministry Together at CCC we would invest our lives in people becoming followers of Jesus Christ.* And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:18-20