



<b>DATE</b>	October 23, 2016
<b>SPEAKER</b>	David Smith
<b>TITLE</b>	Forgiven and Changed
<b>SERIES</b>	Everyone wants to fit in. And there's nothing wrong with that, but there are ways God wants His followers to stand out from the world around them. The first-century church dealt with this same tension, so John wrote them a letter, 1 John, describing the difference between true followers of Jesus and counterfeit ones. So, what's true, and what's false?

Change... We look around us and see God's creation transition from green to brilliant red, yellow, and orange and we know winter is near. We hear and see vigorous debate in the news and know the change in leadership will have a long-lasting impact our nation's future. Today David pointed out the importance of change in the true follower's life as repentance leads a rich eternal future!

#### Icebreaker

As an example of spiritual change, David shared how his father-in-law was freed from destructive anger. Share about something you believe God is changing or has changed in you or someone close to you.

#### Exploring Scripture

1. 1 John 2:29 states true followers of Christ practice righteousness. Another way to think of this is to consistently put yourself in the path of grace allowing it to flow into your life. Read Luke 19:2-10 and discuss the extent that Zacchaeus went so he would be in position for grace to flow to him. What are you doing on a regular basis to position yourself to be in the path of God's Tsunami of grace that comes by the Holy Spirit?
2. David said an aspect of true followers is to live sincerely and love deeply. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5 and 1 Samuel 20:41 and 42. Jonathan was heir to the throne, but knew his place in God's sovereign plan. What are some things in your nature/character that make it difficult to live and love as Jonathan? What areas in your life are you not trusting in His plan?
3. Unbelievers aren't aware of making sin a practice or of their guilty verdict. Read 1 Cor 2:14, Romans 1:18-20, 1 Timothy 2:1-6. Prayer is a powerful weapon in the believer's arsenal, are you using it, asking God's mercy to be on your relatives and friends who are not God's family?
4. Read Matt. 19:16-28 where Jesus talks about the rich and the kingdom of heaven. How do Jesus' words relate to what we have learned in 1 John today?

#### Application

1. True Followers "Love like the Father." In other words, we bear a family resemblance to how God loves. Give an example of what "loving like the father" has looked like in your life.
2. Today we learned True Followers are neither perfect nor permissive. What is the difference between being too permissive, too much of a perfectionist, and finding joy in progress? How does it affect your spiritual life?

3. True followers will be rewarded for how they used what God has given them. Jesus said in Luke 16:10 that we should be faithful in the little things. Do you disparage the little things? What steps can you take to start doing the little things well? Does knowing you will be rewarded motivate you more to obey Him than His person alone?

4. Read Romans 8:30. The true follower is being glorified and one day will be totally glorified when we see Him. What are some things about this truth that impact your heart and mind putting them in a ready state for His return? What changes do you need to make to get ready?