



Series: Die Young

Sermon title: Death is the New Life

Hosts - This is a new series that begins to chip away at the heart of our struggle in surrendering our lives to Christ continually. Many will “agree with God” that He has our eternity covered but this idea of dying daily is a “whole ‘nother thang all together.”

Ask, What are some thoughts and beliefs you have about death? (Give people time to think and respond.)

Read Matthew 16:24–26 ESV

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?”

Lead a short discussion about deny and forfeit –

Deny – what are some pictures that come to your mind, when you hear the word DENY? (Denied a loan, denied your credit card, etc.) We don’t like to be denied anything and we sure do not care to deny ourselves anything that might make life easier.

Forfeit your own soul for the sake of gaining the whole world? What does that look like in our world today? How might we chase after things of the world and forfeit our own soul?

Read Romans 6:3–4 ESV

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Paul sure makes this death stuff sound like a good thing. How is his perspective so counter-intuitive from what the world determines successful?

Michael’s first point is **Death is the new life –**

Abandonment to the Father is the desired goal of the believer’s life.

Oswald Chambers said - The resounding evidence of the Holy Spirit in a person’s life is the unmistakable family likeness to Jesus Christ, and the freedom from everything which is not like Him.

Christ died to bring us new life. He came to make dead people alive.

Read Galatians 2:19–21 ESV

For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

The second point is **Death of self isn’t to escape suffering, it’s to embrace it’s purpose.**

What is the purpose of trials and suffering?

Death of self in you is the beginning of life. (Sanctification)

- Suffering is welcomed when it is seen as growth.
- Suffering must destroy something – either your hope and faith or the parts of you that are keeping you from becoming like Christ.

Read Romans 8:18

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

Accepting trials as a part of the process is a sign of growth.

Read Hebrews 2:14-15

“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”

Fear of death is a lifelong and unnecessary slavery in your life. It is a false fear for those who have accepted Christ.

Death Brings New Things – Seems Counter-intuitive – another paradox of the gospel

The third point is **Self death brings a new life of contentment**

Summarize - Discontentment comes when we put ourselves in the position of having to produce, muster up more than we ever can. It is quickly followed by frustration because your “self” can never measure up. Accepting Christ as enough frees us up from the madness of producing and allows us to be thankful for what He has done and is continuing to do. That is contentment.

Point four of the sermon is **Self death brings a new life of faith**

As you die, you grow in faith. John 12:24

There is no fruit that grows from a seed that refuses to die.

Gal. 5:22-23 – The fruit of the spirit can be evident in our lives as we continue to die to self.

Our faith is strengthened when we finally realize that we can do nothing apart from Christ. John 15

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5 ESV

Self death brings a new life of love

Self love in our culture is really selfish and not the kind of love that is from Christ. While hating self is not what God is propagating here, when we have to be in love with ourselves in order to love others, we have adopted the world’s definition of love.

You are liable to get some head scratching here on this one. Focus on our love for God being the priority and then other relationships come into clearer light. As we love God, His love pours through us and we are able to love our enemies and our “frenemies”.

Christ set the example of what it looks like to love God most.

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Philippians 2:5-8 ESV

The final point is **Self death brings a new life of God-centeredness**

Say, Choosing to die young for your own benefit, your own success, or to get a gain on life, is not really dying to self at all.

Ask, Do you want to love God for what you get from Him (benefits) or for the sake of loving Him alone?

Read - Galatians 5:24 NLT

Summarize - Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.
Notice the action we take – we nail our passions and desires of our sin to the cross and leave them there.

Many people ask “What do I need to do and I will do it.” The answer is clear and difficult. Nail your own passions and desires to the cross.

Dying to self obviously can be very painful and totally freeing as well. The terminology here of crucifixion is brutal and painful. Letting go and dying to self will be painful and can only be done through Christ. Christ even modeled His dependence on the Father –

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last into your hands I commit my spirit. Luke 23:46

Lead the group in a time of prayer after receiving prayer requests. Encourage the group to spend time in the Word this week, seeking Christ Himself and not His benefits.