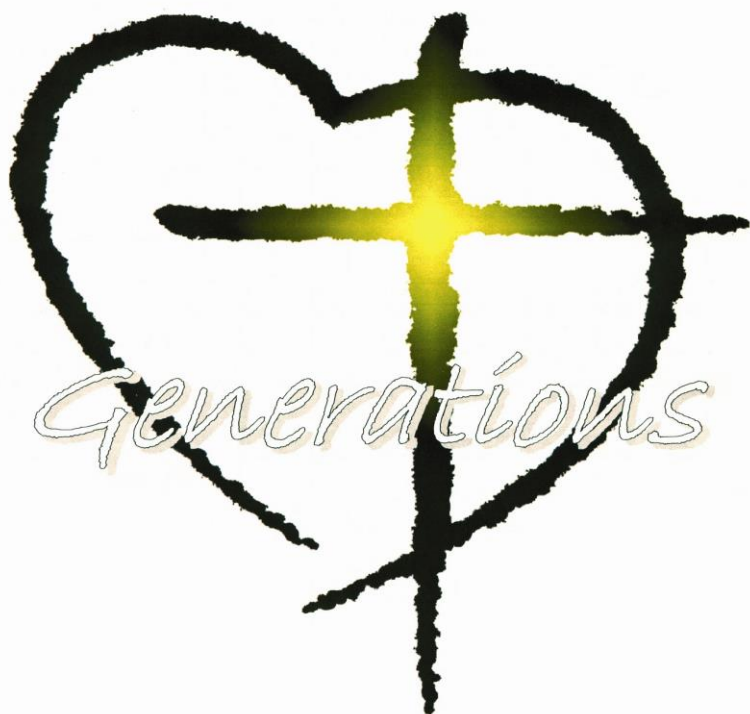


**generations:**

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looking back into your future...



**Camper**

**Handbook**

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My friends

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# Camp Schedule

[Note: insert on this page the basic camp schedule, any local details you want each camper to have, etc]



# Welcome!

*looking back  
into your  
future...*

**W**elcome to camp! We're delighted that you're here. This handbook will guide our journey together here at camp and provide a resource to use back home. Here at camp we'll be traveling together, *looking back into your future...* We'll be looking back to the original creation and from there we'll look forward at the wonderful future God has planned for us.

**generation**

Our journey will focus on a key word: ***generation***. This word reminds us that it was God who 'generated' (created) the whole universe. But then we'll see how that good creation fell into a state of ***DEgeneration***—becoming far less than God created it (and each of us) to be.

**DEgeneration**

**REgeneration**

But God loves His creation and has not left it in confusion and despair—he has a plan for its ***REgeneration***—for making 'all things new' through his son Jesus. And God includes you in that plan. And an exciting part of that plan is to help you partner with the Holy Spirit in ***COgeneration***—working with God to change your world! And in this work He places you into a family that includes multiple ***generationS*** of Christ-followers that we call the church.

**COgeneration**

**generationS**

This is where we're headed here at camp—*so let's get going!*

## Chapel

# 1

## generation

***generation (noun) the process of coming or bringing into being ; that which has been created.***

***generator (noun) one that brings into being***

**H**ave you ever seen a giant generator?

What 'generates' our universe? Do you realize how big it is? It's 5,865,696,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 miles across!

But what got it started? And what keeps it going?

**Genesis 1:1**

*In the beginning God created the \_\_\_\_\_  
and the \_\_\_\_\_.*

There are  
7,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000  
atoms in your body!

(For more amazing facts about our awesome universe see the next to the last section in this handbook)

**John 1:1-3**

*In the \_\_\_\_\_ was the \_\_\_\_\_ and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were \_\_\_\_\_ without him nothing was made that has been made.*

“Made” = “\_\_\_\_\_”

**Acts 17:28**

*For in him we \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and have our \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Colossians 1:17**

*He is \_\_\_\_\_ all things, and in him all things hold \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Psalms 139: 1-18**

*O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.*

*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.*

*If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day,*

*for darkness is as light to you. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

*My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would out number the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.*

**Psalm 139: 23-24**

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

You are one of God's greatest "generations"—created by God as ‘very good’!

But is that what you see in yourself, is that what you experience?

And if not why not? And if not, is there hope? Stay tuned!

**Questions to think  
about**

1. Do you believe God exists? Why or why not?
2. What evidence of design do you see in the universe?
3. Have you ever had a miracle occur in your life?
4. Let's look again at Psalm 139 (see page 3)—have you had any experiences that show how the things written there are true?
5. What dreams and desires do you think that God has for you?



## Chapel

# 2

## DEgeneration

***degeneration:***

***a: having declined  
(as in nature,  
character, structure,  
or function) from an  
ancestral or former  
state;***

***b: having sunk to a  
condition below that  
which is normal to a  
type; especially  
having sunk to a  
lower and usually  
corrupt and vicious  
state.***

**Y**ou can tell a lot about yourself by what you do.

When God created humankind, he declared us to be ‘\_\_\_\_\_’, (Genesis 1:31).

But a lot of what we see today—both in the world and in our own lives— isn’t ‘very good’ is it?

So what accounts for this ***DEgeneration?***

Who made this mess, anyway? And are you hopelessly imprisoned in the way things are?

Let’s play a game called  
***“WHO AM I?”***



• WHO AM I?



• WHO AM I?



• WHO AM I?



• WHO AM I?



• WHO AM I?



• WHO AM I?



• WHO AM I?



• WHO AM I?



• WHO AM I?

You can tell who I am by what I do.



• WHO AM I?

I'm Walt Disney, the creator of all these cartoon characters—the one who created them to do certain things in the fantasy world I created for them to 'live' in.

Who are you? What did God create you to be and to do?

Let's play,  
***"WHO AM I? part 2"***

Ask yourself this question: What does what I 'do' say about who I 'am'?

List here some good things you do.:

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Now list some things you do that you aren't so proud of:

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What can you conclude from looking at these lists? Do you like what you see?

Now let's play,  
**"WHO AM I? part 3"**

What does the *world* 'do'? What does that say about what it *is*?

And why does the world do what it does?

And why do we individually do what we do?

Since we can't ask the world at large, let's ask its Generator, God, in His Word:

**Romans 1:19-20**

*What may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*

According to God, people are without excuse.

But why do so many people look for excuses to not believe God?

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Is it really OK to avoid God?

**Romans 1:21-23**

*For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.*

To avoid God is like a machine that ‘pulls its plug’, cutting itself off from its source of power and purpose.

**Romans 1:24-26**

*So God said, in effect, ‘If that’s what you want, that’s what you get.’ It wasn’t long before they were living in a pigpen, smeared with filth, filthy inside and out. . . Worse followed. Refusing to know God, they soon didn’t know how to be human either. . .*

***DE*generation** set in!

What does that look like?

**Romans 1:28-29**

*Since they didn’t bother to acknowledge God, God quit bothering them and let them run loose. And then all hell broke loose.*

## Our family tree

We all have a family tree—our genealogy—it's the 'back story' of what we just read in Romans. It tells us a lot about who we are and why we do what we do.

After God created mankind, He placed us Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

### Genesis 3:6

*When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*

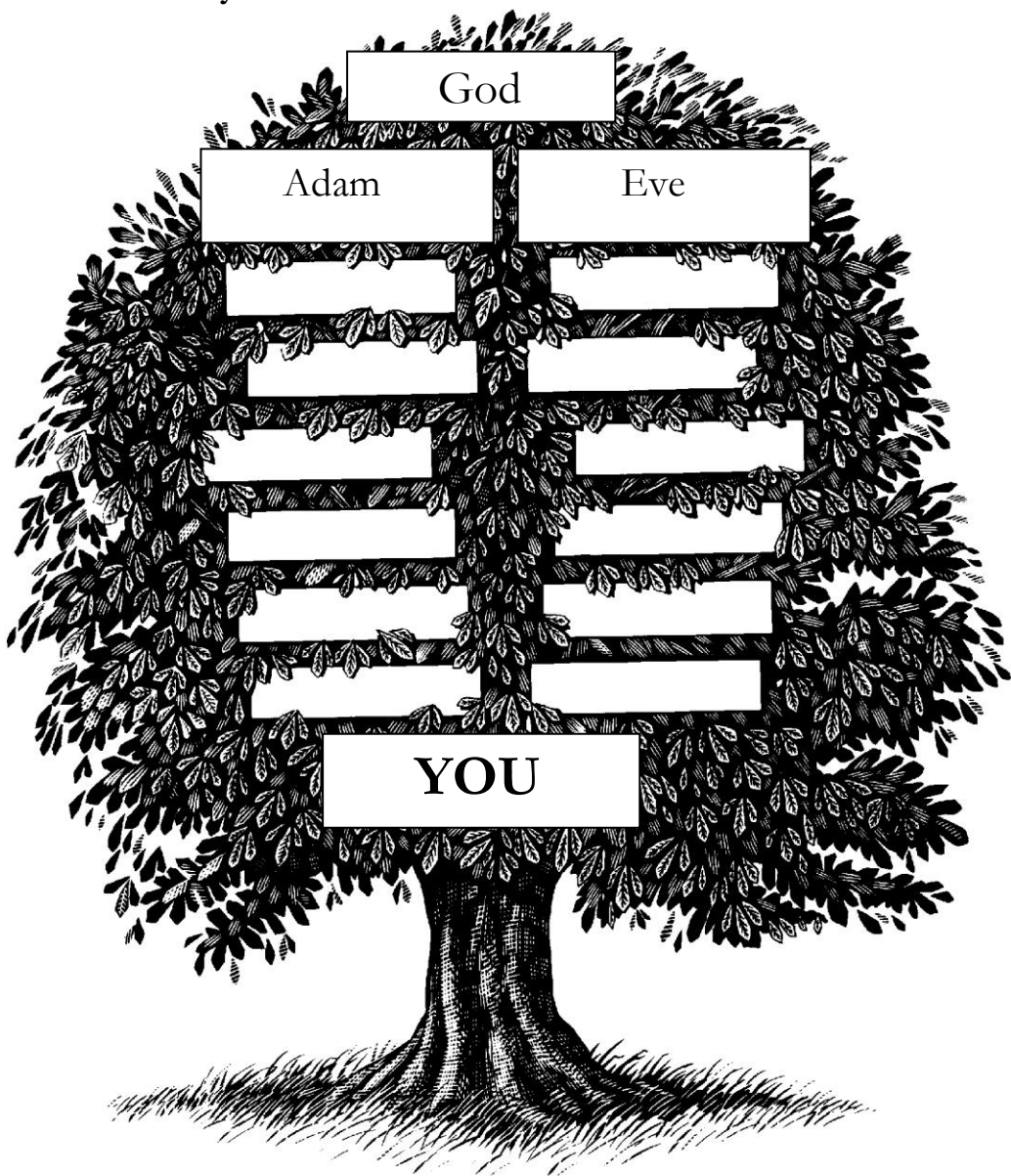
What was the result of their choice?

### Genesis 3:17-19

*To Adam he said, 'Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.'*

Suffering, hard times, and then death. Not because of God's choice, but because of ours. We've fallen into a state of **DEgeneration**—we call it 'human nature'—and it's been passed down to each of us through our 'family tree'

## Your family tree



**Who made this mess anyway?**

God is not responsible for world evil. Our choices, made without the help and power and presence of God in our lives, are responsible. As a result of bad choices (sin) the whole creation entered a state of *DEgeneration!*

Tomorrow, we'll see what God has done about it and in Christian living class we'll spend more time thinking about our family tree.

Stay tuned—God does not leave us as we are!

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**Questions to think about**

1. What could you learn from thinking about your family tree?
2. Are you related to anyone that is famous?
3. How does what you *do* say about who you *are*?
4. Do you have role models back home that you would like to grow up to become like?
5. Can you see how mankind's choices, not God's, have brought hurt and suffering into this world?



regeneration

*1 : an act or the process of forming or creating again;*

*2 : spiritually reborn or converted;*

*3 : restored to a better, higher, or more worthy state.*

## REgeneration

**T**his world needs to be "fixed." It got "broken" after its original creation because our first parents made choices without involving God.

*DE*generation resulted and spread to all of us down through the generations—and it spread to all of creation:

**Romans 8:20**

*The creation was subjected to bondage to decay.*

Imagine the dilemma: A broken humanity, suffering because it chose sin and death and pain. A whole creation subject to bondage to decay. Because of a choice to leave God out!

But that wasn't *all* God had planned . . .

**John 3:16**

*For God so loved the world . . .*

**Going back—  
to fix the future**

God is not just the start-up *generator*. He's also the *REgenerator*! He can—and has started a process if re-creating the universe—and that includes you and me. We can be 'born again'!

God inspired the apostle John to go back to the Beginning of all things—to a close-up-and-personal view of God.

**John 1:1**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*With and Was. Was and With.*

*Two but One. One but Two.*

*Actually, one but three (the Trinity).*

**John 1:2-3**

*He [the Word] was in the beginning with God. All things came into being [were generated] through Him, and without Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being.*

**John 1:14**

*And the Word became flesh.*

*Silently by night,  
in mortal flesh  
enshrouded,  
He who framed the  
mountains  
draws first breath.  
Far from human sight,  
the Promise ne'er  
forgotten  
Is in love begotten  
to conquer death.*

God became flesh! And He did more than just show mankind what God was like—he started humanity all over again by becoming one with it.

***O, come let us adore Him!***

The Bible says Christ became the 'New Adam.' He did this in order to start things all over again.

**1Co 15:45**

*So also it has been written, "The" first "man", Adam, "became a living soul;" the last Adam a life-giving Spirit.*

**The Good News**

God started over by becoming one of us, by fulfilling for us God's righteous requirements for humankind, and then by dying to pay for our sins—so that we can be forgiven for our inability to meet God's requirements.

All we have to do is accept this gift of Christ from our Father—willingly giving him our lives and putting our full trust in him to be our REgenerator, our God, our Savior.

Here's what we need to know:

**Romans 3:23**

*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

**Romans 6:23**

*The wages of sin is death*

-but- [and here comes the *good news*]

**2 Cor. 5:14**

*One [Jesus Christ] died for all.*

We don't have to die for our sins like we deserve. God will count Jesus' death for us.

And further, God tells us:

**John 1:12**

*To all who received him [Jesus Christ], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God*

We become God's children—we start all over, by (as Jesus said in John 3:7), being 'born again.'

You can start all over. And live life anew. In Jesus Christ.

**Questions to think about**

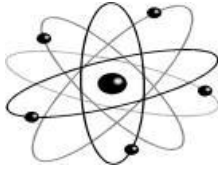
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1. Who does the Bible Say was in the beginning?
  2. What did he do?
  3. Who did he become?
  4. What do the following Scriptures imply about what happens when we give ourselves to Christ?

**2Co 5:17** Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.

**Rev 21:5** Then the one sitting on the throne said: I am making everything new. Write down what I have said. My words are true and can be trusted.

## Chapel

# 4



## COgeneration

***cogeneration** :  
the production  
of electricity  
using heat from  
an industrial  
process or using  
the steam from  
electric power  
generation as a  
source of heat;  
the production  
of good by using  
the power of  
another.*

**P**ower plants make electrons flow by spinning copper wires near a magnet in a **generator** that then generates heat. Sometimes the heat is captured to generate more power—that's called **COgeneration**—using the power of another to generate more power. Sounds like what God offers to us!

God wants to **COgenerate** His **REgenerated** life in you so that you can say:

***I've been set free to be Christ in me!***

A lot of people think that the way to become all they are meant to be is to tap into the "god within." But mankind cut himself off from God. There's no "god" or "greatness" in us naturally. In fact, what we find inside the human heart and spirit is the *degeneration* of what was originally very good. Some of God's image remains, but it is terribly distorted.

**Sharing the  
divine nature**

Christ reconnects us to the Eternal  
Generator.

Through Christ we can take part in God's  
'divine nature' and we can co-generate good  
with Him!

**2 Peter 1:4**

*He has given us his very great and precious promises,  
so that through them you may participate in the divine  
nature.*

**John 14:23**

*Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my  
teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come  
to him and make our home with him.*

Christ and the Father move into our lives  
through the Holy Spirit:

**John 14:15-17**

*"If you love me, you will obey what I command. <sup>16</sup>  
And I will ask the Father, and he will give you  
another Counselor to be with you forever— the Spirit  
of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it  
neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him,  
for he lives with you and will be in you.*

Remember, what you *do* says a lot about who  
you *are*. And so, what does God, in you  
through the Holy Spirit, do?

God is the "Generator." He's always creating  
things, always renewing things, always making  
things grow, always making things come to  
life and renewal. He's a non-stop non stop  
blast of life and good and growth and joy.

## Stepping into the life of God

And He wants to make you and the things around you new. He wants to co-minister—*COgenerate* with you, and through you.

Some power plants harness the energy in water. The power plant at the Hoover dam has 29.8 million acre feet of water stored in a reservoir behind the power plant. That's a lot of potential power!

Think, though, of the power reservoir which God makes available to you through his gift of the Holy Spirit. A gift pictured in our baptism.

## Romans 6:4-5, 8

*We were therefore **buried with** him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection...Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.*

In baptism we become one with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection life. United to Christ in this way we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit who lives in us, *COgenerating* his life within us.

The Holy Spirit works to transform us into the fullness of who God created us to be: through the Spirit we are 'free to be Christ in me!'

Here's what God invites us to do so that we might receive this wonderful gift:

**Acts 2:38**

*Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

This is God's gift of freedom—free from having to remain *DEgenerated*. Free from having to be just a human without God in you. Free from having to eternally die! Free to be everything Christ has made you to be!

**Galatians 5:1**

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.*

***Step into the Power!***

---

**Questions to think about**

1. How does your life become one with Jesus?
2. What are ways you can become more aware of and yield more fully to the Holy Spirit in your life?



## Chapel

# 5



## generations

***generation***  
***a: a body of living beings constituting a single step in the line of descent from an ancestor;***  
***b: a group of individuals living at the same time***

God makes it possible for us to be *REgenerated*, to be "free to be Christ in me!" But he also makes it possible for us to be part of a community of REgeneration—*free to be Christ in 'we.'*

The 'we' is the church, which God has created to include all kinds of people together. This can only happen when people love each other despite the differences.

The church is designed by God to be multiple ***generationS*** living and loving together. Church is not just a place you go—it's a ***spiritual body*** you are called to be an active part of!

### Baptized into the body

Do you know what the bible says happens to you at baptism?

- We are crucified and buried with Christ—becoming one with His death.
- We are raised with Christ—becoming one with his resurrection life.

But something else happens at baptism:

**1 Corinthians  
12:13, 27**

*For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body. . . Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

You' are baptized into the **body of Christ**, the church. And you're gifted by God to become a specific part of that body, involved in specific types of ministry

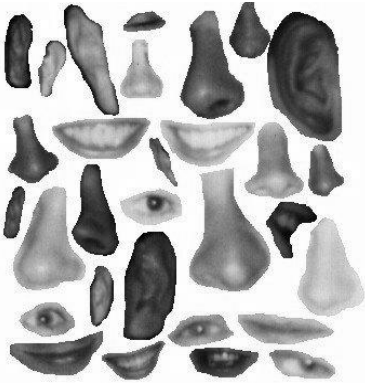
**1 Corinthians  
12:18, 24**

*God has combined the members of the body . . . God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.*

God himself places you in the body just as he wants. Being part of the body (the church), is more than just finding a place that has music you like and friends you can 'hang' with. Being part of the body is about growing into what God has planned for you in the church, for the good of all.

**1 Corinthians  
12:14-20**

*Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*



A lot of groups of Christians look like the pictures on this page: disconnected body parts—and thus not effective.

But when we submit to God's design for the body—using our gifts to serve the body rather than serving ourselves, something wonderful happens: God has "whole bodies" to work with. And his truth gets passed on to and through multiple Generations working together.



### **Timothy and Paul**

God wants all generations to share his mission together. A beautiful example of this cross-generational ministry is Timothy, who as a teen, teamed up with his mentor, Paul.

Paul shared his life and his ministry with Timothy. They became one with God and with one another.



Timothy became not only a disciple of Paul, but able to do what Paul did for the body of Christ a lot of what originally only Paul himself was able to do.

And when Paul died, there was someone to continue the work Christ wanted to continue—into the next generation!

Paul saw fulfilled in Timothy what another teenager in the Bible said he wanted to see fulfilled in his own life:

**Psalm 71:17-18**

*Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come.*

We are "free to be Christ in ME!" And we are "Free to be Christ in WE!"

**Mentors in  
your life**

How will that happen for you? We feel it's vital that you get connected to a spiritual mentor: Someone who can advise you, strengthen you and encourage you. Someone who can "hold you up" in the Lord. Someone who can help "hold you down" when you need it

Do you know anyone in your life that could be your mentor? It might be your mom or dad! It might be an uncle, a cousin, a brother, a friend. It might be a person at your church—perhaps your pastor.

The next generation is relying upon the works that you—connected with the full body—will do through the power of the Holy Spirit and for the glory of Christ.

**generationS . . . a backwards look into your future....**

**generationS . . . now, pass it on!**

**Class**

**1**

# Doing me, being me

## LET'S PLAY "WHO AM I?"

In the privacy of your own heart and thoughts,  
write out answer the following questions:

- Who am I?
  
- What do I do?

Write down some of the good things you do...

Now, write down some of the things you do that are not so good...

- As you look at what you are, reflected in what you do, do you like what you see? Why?
- One last question: Why do you do what you do? Where does your behavior come from?

## **My family tree**

When it comes to who we are and what we do, we can learn a lot by examining our 'family tree' which describes where we have come from—the influences that people have had in our lives.

So let's construct our family tree (see the form in the notes for chapel #2). Fill in as many of the blanks there as you can.

As you construct your family tree, don't only include physical relatives. You may have "spiritual relatives"—a spiritual brother, sister, or older spiritual friend who is like a parent to you.

What can you see about yourself (good or bad) that comes from taking a look at this family tree? Take a few moments to think about this—perhaps writing down your ideas. As you think, answer these questions:

- Of all the relatives you've listed, who would you most want to be like?
  
- Is there anybody in your family tree that you want to become like? Are they still living? Can you enter into a closer relationship with them?
  
- Who on this tree is someone who could serve as your mentor—your spiritual guide and coach? Perhaps there is that "spiritual father" who brought you to Christ. Or an older member in your congregation that you trust and look up to as a follower of Christ. Is anyone spiritually parenting or mentoring you? Is there anyone back home who could serve this role for you?

**Class**

**2**

# Free to be Christ in me

**Colossians 3:1-8**

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.*

As our substitute, Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins (which is death) on our behalf. And in Christ we are resurrected to a new life—a life of freedom from sin's guilt and sin's bondage. In Christ, we are freed from sin.



But, of course, our old person, is still alive. Who he or she is, is who we are in Adam—it's the nature we inherited from our ancestors. But in Christ (the New Adam) we share a new life—a new nature—the life and nature of Jesus, and we are free to live in him rather than in Adam.

God now grants us that choice—and the power to make it and to follow through.

This does not mean that all of a sudden we are perfect. We continue to sin, to falter and even fall. But with Christ's help through the Holy Spirit, he picks us up, we are forgiven and we are empowered to change—to become less like Adam and more like Jesus—over time; one step at a time.

It's the work of the Holy Spirit to change us. And we are called upon to cooperate—to co-minister with the Spirit—to discipline our choices and our actions so that they are more in line with Christ and his way.

This is how it works: You'll still be tempted! Even Christ was tempted by the things that were around Him. But He never gave in to that temptation—temptation never turned to sin in his life. Of course, we are not Christ—we are not God-in-the-flesh. But we can know that in Christ we are forgiven and in Christ we are set free to have Christ living in and through us. We can share Christ's resurrection life!

And so we can call upon his power to help us when temptation comes (and it will!)—with his help we can learn to say no to the temptation and to have the power to follow through.

How do you wage this war with Christ against sin? First by understanding that temptation is not sin. Rather it is giving in to temptation in our minds and actions that is sin. So how do you stop the process of temptation leading directly to sinful action or thought? By engaging in the two step process we just read about in Colossians 3:

1. ***Put to death***—turn away from—separate yourself from—the things you know are wrong—the things the Bible teaches are wrong.

2. ***Set your mind on things above***—or put another way: stay strongly connected to God and to the things of God. Fill your mind with God’s thoughts—embrace his heart.

How do you do that? God has given us some important tools—what Christians refer to as “spiritual disciplines” or “spiritual habits”. Let’s look at the main ones:

1. **Prayer.** This involves talking to God, staying close to him in a personal relationship, sharing your life with Him. Nothing stirs up the Power of God's presence in you like prayer.

2. **Bible reading.** This involves reading and learning about the things of God that he reveals in Holy Scriptures. It teaches you things you can't come to know by yourself—God's will about all sorts of things in this life and the next. Mankind cut himself off from God's advice and experience and made really stupid decisions that resulted in the broken world we have today. You don't have to go there! God's words are living and sharp like a blade that cuts through confusion—it's like a laser beam that brings things into sharp focus. Reading God's word will help you stay connected to God's mind—to his will—to his direction for your life.

3. **Fellowship.** Your connection with God increases as you stay connected to other Christ-followers in what we call 'fellowship'—close, intimate, God-centered relationships within the church. Fellowship is far deeper than just dropping in at church—or hopping from church to church because you like the worship or the pastor. True Christian fellowship that connects you deeply with God involves being deeply connected into the lives of other Christ-followers week-in and week-out—year-in and year-out, over a long period of time. God wants you to share in that type of community—let him place you there where you can serve Him by serving others according to His will for you in Him. And then stay connected. Stay put—don't be a church hopper.

4. **Mentoring.** God doesn't want you to do it alone. In addition to giving you the Holy Spirit personally, he's placed people in your life that can mentor you—coach you. He wants you to connect with older people who have lived a long time co-generating with Jesus, who were meant to pass on their life lessons and ministries to you. A mentor is someone who will hold you accountable to the vision Christ has for you, and will help bring you back when you get sidetracked. A mentor will share with you life lessons and will help you grow into the ministry work that Christ has for you to do in the body of Christ. And God desires that you grow to the point where you can mentor others.

# Our awesome universe

Scientist Rick Deems asks concerning the design of our universe:

“Does science lead us down a road that ends in the naturalistic explanation of everything we see? In the nineteenth century, it certainly looked as though science was going in that direction. . . . However, 20<sup>th</sup> century and now 21<sup>st</sup> century science is leading us back down the road of design - not from a *lack* of scientific explanation, but from scientific explanation that requires an appeal to the extremely unlikely - something that science does not deal well with. As a result of the recent evidence in support of design, many scientists now believe in God.”

Here are some of the facts that have convinced many scientists that God has designed and now sustains the universe:

- We are part of a solar system (a bunch of planets located around a star like the sun), which in turn is part of a spiral shaped galaxy. There are billions of other stars in the spiral "arms" of this galaxy which rotate around a center.
- Our solar system "just happens" to be specially located—near the edge of the galaxy in a relatively unpopulated region between two spiral arms. It's *the only location* within a galaxy where stars do not drift in and out of the spiral arms as the galaxy rotates around its own center. And for some reason our solar system's own rotation is somehow *perfectly in sync* with our galaxy's rotation. Otherwise, we'd drift in and out of the spiral arms filled with stars and the conditions needed to support life would not exist. Someone had to design all of this. And that Some-One is indeed out there!
- And if the "big" or "macro" world isn't amazing enough, lets go to the invisible "micro" world—the world of electrons and protons. These are the tiny particles that revolve around the nucleus of atoms, which by the

way make up everything. By the way, just for discussion sake, here's how big an atom is. There are more than a billion atoms on the period at the end of this sentence. Imagine trying to study just one atom on that period. By the way, there are 7,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 atoms in your body. That's between a quintillion and decillion atoms--456 trillion trillion in your head alone!

- We have a *perfectly sized* sun. Stars smaller than our Sun could not support life. Their small size would require us to be much closer to the sun. We would have to move so rapidly around the sun that our year would be longer than our day. Venus takes 243 Earth-days to rotate on its axis and make one single day. This results in extremes of temperatures on the surface of this planet all in one day, and it prohibits the survival of life. But not so on our perfectly designed earth with its perfectly designed sun.

- Ever see the movie "Deep Impact" and wonder why we're not being bombarded by meteors all this time? Your Solar System just 'happens' to be protected from cometary bombardment by two giant planets (Jupiter and Mars) that just "happen" to be in precisely the right spot. Scientists estimate that the Earth would receive approximately 10,000 times its current level of comet impacts if these planets were not where they are.

- Jupiter is a very unusual planet in our galaxy. All other giant planets like Jupiter are found much closer to their star than Jupiter is. In fact, most are closer to their star than the Earth is to the Sun. But if Jupiter were as close to the Sun as planets their sizes normally are, the Earth would have been ejected from the Solar System. For some reason, it's exactly where it needs to be to protect the earth, and to keep it from shooting out into space.

- The Earth and moon are located exactly where they need to be to keep Jupiter and Mars and Venus from "ejecting" from our solar system, and breaking up the whole system.

- We have what scientists call "an impossibly large moon" that could have been formed only by a very precise collision with a large planet. Normally, a planet colliding like this would have bounced off and exploded and turned into dust and rings like those around Saturn. But this collision bounced off "exactly" the distance it needed to stay together, stay in perfect orbit, and give us the exact tug we needed for tides and waves and the exact timing we need for the exact length of a day!
- Protons and electrons are even smaller things that orbit around the centers of just one of these atoms. They have to exist in an exact balance, because of their electrical charge. An uneven balance causes them to cancel each other out, and causes matter to not be able to hold together and form.
- Scientists have come to see that at the beginning of the universe, there were exactly the number of electron and protons that there had to be for this universe to hold together and come together and stay together in the first place! And the chance for that happening by itself is not very big!
- The chance that the precise balance in the number of protons and the number of electrons just came "into being" by itself at the existence at the beginning of the universe is so small that scientists say the following analogy would picture that chance:
- Cover the entire North American continent in dimes all the way up to the moon, a height of about 239,000 miles (in comparison, the money to pay for the U.S. federal government debt would cover one square mile less than two feet deep with dimes). Next, pile dimes from here to the moon on a billion other continents the same size as North America. Paint one dime red and mix it into the billions of piles of dimes. Blindfold a friend and ask him to pick out one dime. The odds that he will pick the red dime are one in  $10^{37}$ . And that's the "chance" that the exact number of protons and electrons needed would have existed at the creation of the universe!

As a result of the recent evidence in support of design, many scientists now believe in God as attested to in the following quotes (see references at the end of this section):

- "I was reminded of this a few months ago when I saw a survey in the journal *Nature*. It revealed that 40% of American physicists, biologists and mathematicians believe in God--and not just some metaphysical abstraction, but a deity who takes an active interest in our affairs and hears our prayers: the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."(1)
- *Fred Hoyle, famed scientist and mathematician* "A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question." (2)
- *George Ellis (British astrophysicist)*: "Amazing fine tuning occurs in the laws that make this [complexity] possible. Realization of the complexity of what is accomplished makes it very difficult not to use the word 'miraculous' without taking a stand as to the ontological status of the word." (3)
- *Paul Davies (British astrophysicist)*: "There is for me powerful evidence that there is something going on behind it all....It seems as though somebody has fine-tuned nature's numbers to make the Universe....The impression of design is overwhelming". (4)
- *Paul Davies*: "The laws [of physics] ... seem to be the product of exceedingly ingenious design... The universe must have a purpose". (5)
- *Alan Sandage (winner of the Crawford prize in astronomy)*: "I find it quite improbable that such order came out of chaos. There has to be some organizing principle. God to me is a mystery but is the explanation for the miracle of existence, why there is something instead of nothing." (6)
- *John O'Keefe (astronomer at NASA)*: "We are, by astronomical standards, a pampered, cosseted, cherished group of creatures... If the Universe had not been made with the



most exacting precision we could never have come into existence. It is my view that these circumstances indicate the universe was created for man to live in." (7)

- *George Greenstein (astronomer)*: "As we survey all the evidence, the thought insistently arises that some supernatural agency - or, rather, Agency - must be involved. Is it possible that suddenly, without intending to, we have stumbled upon scientific proof of the existence of a Supreme Being? Was it God who stepped in and so providentially crafted the cosmos for our benefit?" (8)
- *Arthur Eddington (astrophysicist)*: "The idea of a universal mind or Logos would be, I think, a fairly plausible inference from the present state of scientific theory." (9)
- *Arno Penzias (Nobel prize in physics)*: "Astronomy leads us to a unique event, a universe which was created out of nothing, one with the very delicate balance needed to provide exactly the conditions required to permit life, and one which has an underlying (one might say 'supernatural') plan." (10)
- *Roger Penrose (mathematician and author)*: "I would say the universe has a purpose. It's not there just somehow by chance." (11)
- *Tony Rothman (physicist)*: "When confronted with the order and beauty of the universe and the strange coincidences of nature, it's very tempting to take the leap of faith from science into religion. I am sure many physicists want to. I only wish they would admit it." (12)
- *Vera Kistiakowsky (MIT physicist)*: "The exquisite order displayed by our scientific understanding of the physical world calls for the divine." (13)
- *Robert Jastrow (self-proclaimed agnostic)*: "For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries." (14)
- *Stephen Hawking (British astrophysicist)*: "Then we shall... be able to take part in the discussion of the question of why it is that we and the universe exist. If we find the answer to that, it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason - for then we would know the mind of God." (15)
- *Frank Tipler (Professor of Mathematical Physics)*: "When I began my career as a cosmologist some twenty years ago, I was a convinced atheist. I never in my wildest dreams

imagined that one day I would be writing a book purporting to show that the central claims of Judeo-Christian theology are in fact true, that these claims are straightforward deductions of the laws of physics as we now understand them. I have been forced into these conclusions by the inexorable logic of my own special branch of physics." (16)

- *Alexander Polyakov (Soviet mathematician)*: "We know that nature is described by the best of all possible mathematics because God created it." (17)
- *Ed Harrison (cosmologist)*: "Here is the cosmological proof of the existence of God – the design argument of Paley – updated and refurbished. The fine tuning of the universe provides prima facie evidence of deistic design. Take your choice: blind chance that requires multitudes of universes or design that requires only one... Many scientists, when they admit their views, incline toward the teleological or design argument." (18)
- *Edward Milne (British cosmologist)*: "As to the cause of the Universe, in context of expansion, that is left for the reader to insert, but our picture is incomplete without Him [God]." (19)
- *Barry Parker (cosmologist)*: "Who created these laws? There is no question but that a God will always be needed." (20)
- *Drs. Zehavi, and Dekel (cosmologists)*: "This type of universe, however, seems to require a degree of fine tuning of the initial conditions that is in apparent conflict with 'common wisdom'." (21)
- *Arthur L. Schawlow (Professor of Physics at Stanford University, 1981 Nobel Prize in physics)*: "It seems to me that when confronted with the marvels of life and the universe, one must ask why and not just how. The only possible answers are religious. . . . I find a need for God in the universe and in my own life." (22)
- *Henry "Fritz" Schaefer (Graham Perdue Professor of Chemistry and director of the Center for Computational Quantum Chemistry at the University of Georgia)*: "The significance and joy in my science comes in those occasional moments of discovering something new and saying to myself, 'So that's how God did it.' My goal is to understand a little corner of God's plan." (23)
- *Wernher von Braun (Pioneer rocket engineer)*: "I find it as difficult to understand a scientist who does not acknowledge the presence of a superior rationality behind the existence of the universe as it is to comprehend a theologian who would deny the advances of science." (24)

- Carl Woese (microbiologist from the University of Illinois) "Life in Universe - rare or unique? I walk both sides of that street. One day I can say that given the 100 billion stars in our galaxy and the 100 billion or more galaxies, there have to be some planets that formed and evolved in ways very, very like the Earth has, and so would contain microbial life at least. There are other days when I say that the anthropic principal, which makes this universe a special one out of an unaccountably large number of universes, may not apply only to that aspect of nature we define in the realm of physics, but may extend to chemistry and biology. In that case life on Earth could be entirely unique." (25)
- Antony Flew (Professor of Philosophy, former atheist, author, and debater) "It now seems to me that the findings of more than fifty years of DNA research have provided materials for a new and enormously powerful argument to design." (26)

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## My friends

Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
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e-mail	e-mail
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## My friends

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