

Series: Step Out - Week 1

Stepping Out of Bitterness

Eph 4:30-32, Jonah 4:1-3, 9-11, Matt 27:33-34, Heb 12:15, 2 Cor 4:7-10

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Pure Heart

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Stepping Out of Bitterness

Love Our Schools Day – OCT 18

To watch this message online, go to <https://www.pureheart.org>
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Heart Crew Homework

For the week of October 4th & 5th

MY STORY

1. Sometimes the most ordinary things carry the deepest joy when we stop and recognize them. What is something that has brought you joy in life in the last month? What is something you are especially grateful for right now?
2. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Identity in Christ is more than just knowing who we are, it is about living it out. James reminds us to not only *hear* the Word but to *do* it (James 1:22). Faith and identity grow strongest when we put them into action with courage. Sometimes courage means forgiving someone who hurt you, speaking life over someone who does not see it in themselves, or stepping into obedience even when it feels risky. What does courage in faith look like for you? Can you share a time recently when you acted in courage, or when fear held you back?

- a. Paul reminds us in Philippians 3:14–16 to keep pressing toward the heavenly prize and to live up to what we have already received. Our eternal identity is not something we are waiting to earn, it has already been given. Yet, living it out can feel like a daily challenge. How do James 1 and Philippians 3 challenge the way you think about active faith? What helps you stay motivated to “press on” when faith feels difficult?

2. Forgiveness is at the very heart of our righteousness. We are only declared righteous because of the forgiveness God has given us. In Luke 7:36–50, we see this through a powerful story: a woman known for her sinful reputation kneels at Jesus’ feet, pouring out perfume, tears, and humility. The Pharisees judged her, but Jesus honored her. Read Luke 7:36–39. How did the Pharisees respond to the woman? Can you think of a time when you have been skeptical or judgmental of someone else’s moment of worship or surrender?

- a. Then, Jesus tells a story in verses 40–43 that shows forgiveness has no limits in Him. If you look at the broad picture, both the woman and the Pharisees had the opportunity to respond to grace. What stands out to you in this short parable about forgiveness? Do you think Jesus’ point was only about the woman, or also to make the Pharisees think?

- b. In verses 44–46, Jesus highlights the woman’s act of humility as something far greater than social pride. Finally, in verses 47–50, we see the climax: the woman leaves not just forgiven but restored in her identity. What does Jesus say has saved her? Why is it significant that Jesus gives her direction immediately after forgiving her? What should forgiveness lead to in a changed life?

TAKING IT HOME

Paul captures the beauty of our new identity in 2 Corinthians 5:17–21. Because of Jesus, we are new creations (v.17), reconciled back to God (v.18), no longer defined by our sin (v.19). But it does not stop there, we are now Christ’s ambassadors (v.20). Our lives, our words, and even our struggles point others back to God. The foundation is this: God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (v.21). Your righteousness is not something you earn, it is something you have received in Christ. And now you are sent to live it out, pointing, pleading with others to encounter the same forgiveness. Who is one person you can pray for this week that they might experience the forgiveness of Christ and become new in Him?