

Message Series: Plastic

Message Title: God finishes what He starts

Key Scripture:

Philippians 1:6

Other Scriptures: Jeremiah 18:1–4, Isaiah 64:8, Philippians 3:12–14

Theme

A plastic person is materialistic, insincere, cheap, or fake. Someone who looks the part, yet lacks any sort of depth. We are seeing a mental health decline at the same time as self is being elevated. The world is declaring 'I want to be recognised', but modern identities take no scrutiny and like plastic they snap under any pressure.

In a world that wants to make and remake itself, this is a discipleship series from Philippians, on how we embrace a God identity in the mould of Jesus. NOT, Me, Myself and I; but God first.

Message Summary

We work out our identity through the gospel. The gospel is ultimately about salvation but once there, we grow identity in Christ through grace among us. In all this we can be confident that you are not yet the person who God wants you to be. But YET is a very important word. There is a lifelong process. It's HIS work, He's started, (and if you'll let Him) He'll finish until our personhood is properly formed in the body. It is God's work to shape us and our work to let him do it.

Whole Group Questions

- Think & Talk: Do you present yourself as one kind of person somewhere and then another part of your life you are completely different?
- Are you real or artificial? What is God, self made or man made in you?
- Discuss how we understand His work of grace.

How does applying this message affect our:

Fellowship – experiencing healthy relationships with other people

A result is what Paul teaches throughout this whole letter that you have a three way bond. You • Jesus • Koinonia (the church where you are at). The three of those are bound together for eternity. How do you see this outworking in your relationships?

Discipleship – growing in Christ both cognitively and experientially

There is a life pressure of imitation going on, a challenge to what we all conform to. The agenda being pressed into culture, is to come up with more and more that is artificial, to tell us who we are, and how to live. Where are you like Christ and where are you more like the world?

Ministry – Discovering and using our God-given gifts and abilities

The world is cheap and mass produced, whereas God, wants to shape us and make us. God is the potter and we are the clay, and to be really true in our God given

humanity, we are to be pliable, supple, mouldable; and at times he will break us, to remake us. How can we see it is God's work to shape us and our work to let him do it? Where do we need to rethink?

Evangelism – Reaching out and sharing the love of Christ with unbelievers

What is HIS WORK? His work of Grace that has saved you. Since you have received Jesus, through the gospel, by the Spirit who opened your heart, God who has begun a good work in you, (as part of the whole) and will complete it by the time Jesus returns. Do we understand this to be able to explain and share it?

Worship – Surrendering our heart and life to Christ on an ongoing basis

Everything is incidental to Paul compared to the work and life of Jesus on the inside. Who we are works out of the gospel, not the other way around. How does this affect your worship?