

# Real Change 1

Learning to become new  
creations

# What God has been saying to me

I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

# New Year: motivated to change

New years resolutions?

Vacation coming up: Loose 8 pounds

Bible reading, prayer

We are forever trying to change, to  
better ourselves

*“How’s that working out for you?”*

More serious changes: things we can't  
seem to stop

Sometimes we promised not to:

Blow up in anger at the kids / spouse

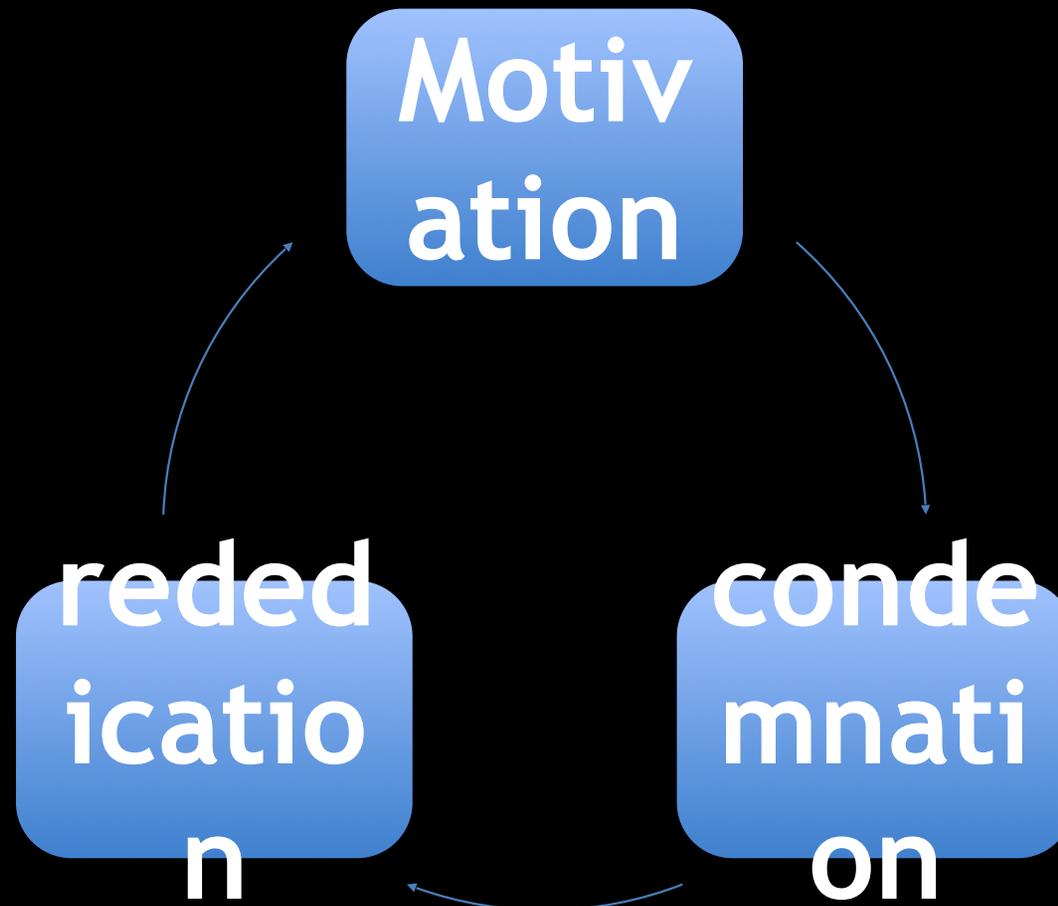
Binge eat

Watch porn

We promise our spouses, ourselves and  
God to stop these things, we are  
sincere

***“How’s that working out for you?”***

# How we have tried to change



# Motivation - Condemnation - Rededication cycle

“For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want to do is what I keep doing”

Paul: Romans 7: 19

We have been sincerely trying to change ourselves, but we can't

***There is another way, a path to real change***

# Why did I want to change?

I didn't like who I was

I had seen too many Christians whose character had never changed

I found myself unable to change, no matter what I tried

How could Christianity (as I understood it) could turn the world upside down?

Either it didn't work, or I was wrong, - I had to examine my presuppositions

# At His core, God is love

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love

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John 4: 7, 8

We have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love..

4: 16

# How do I view God's dealings with me?

Is my relationship with God primarily:

Judicial

Relational

The prodigal son (Luke 15)

Woman at the well (John 8)

These paradigms influence our  
interpretation of events in our lives and  
how we react

# How do I view my heart as a Christian?

The heart is deceitful above all things, and  
desperately wicked;                      Jeremiah 17: 9

“I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit  
I will put within you. And I will remove  
your heart of stone from your flesh and give  
you a heart of flesh”                      Ezekiel 36:  
26

New creations

2 Corinthians 5: 17

# Do I have 2 natures?

Old nature / New nature

I often heard the one we feed more  
wins

But our old nature died

What kind of a nature do we have now?

What is the flesh and sin in Romans 7?

# What happens when I sin?

But your iniquities have built barriers between you and your God, and your sins have made Him hide his face from you so He does not listen

Isaiah 59: 2

(HCSB)

Is God over there, on the other side of my sin, looking at me with disgust?

The fall

How does sin affect our relationship with God?

# Household gods

Genesis 31 (Rachel steals Laban's gods)

We are looking for a god we can control,  
when that doesn't happen, we  
question God.... (God, I did all the  
right things... why did this happen?)

Example when kids go astray

# What do I think holiness is?

We think of this primarily as not sinning

Spiritual growth is doing less bad things and  
doing more good things

***“the utter relief of holiness”*** John Eldridge

“We get to live Jesus’s life”

How do we get off the motivation -  
condemnation - rededication cycle

We were born into a love story  
set in a world at war

For our struggle is not against flesh and  
blood, but against the rulers, against the  
authorities, against the powers of this  
dark world and against the spiritual  
forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6: 12

Every move we make towards God (or  
others) will be opposed by the enemy

Matthew 28 seems so foreign  
but it's meant to be the norm

Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.” (NLT)

# A journey of change

I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20