

CORNERSTONE

DISCIPLES

SHIP

GROUPS

EMMANUEL: GOD WITH US, part 2

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Pastor Andrew Burns

HOUSEKEEPING & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Scan QR code for Upcoming Events, News, Giving and more!

Sunday, December 21 - Very special breakfast - crepes - by Zorianna Shevchuk

Wednesday, December 24 - Candlelight Communion

<https://linktr.ee/cornerstonejc>

OPENING PRAYER

SERMON OVERVIEW

This sermon explores God's unchanging heart for His family from creation through the coming of Jesus. Pastor Andrew emphasizes that we don't start our Christian journey "in the red" but from a position of being deeply wanted and valued by God, who has always desired fellowship with humanity.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. God's Original Design: We were created in God's image and likeness for fellowship, not as an afterthought or side project.
2. God Never Left: Even after sin entered the world, God continued to seek out humanity—He didn't withdraw;
3. The Proto-Evangelium: God's plan for redemption through Jesus was announced immediately after the fall (Genesis 3:15): "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."
4. Jesus' Mission: "The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10)—He actively pursues us.
5. We Are Not Starting from Deficit: Our Christian life doesn't begin in the negative; Jesus has already reconciled us to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1: God's Heart for Family

1. The sermon mentioned that 51% of people look forward to spending time with family at Christmas. How does knowing that God intensely desires you as a permanent member of His family change your perspective on belonging?
2. Read Genesis 3:8. What does it reveal about God's relationship with Adam and Eve that they "recognized His steps"? What does this tell us about God's desire for intimacy with us?
3. How does understanding that we were made "in God's image and likeness" (Genesis 1:26-27) affect your sense of identity and purpose?

Section 2: Sin Didn't Change God's Heart

4. Pastor Andrew showed how God continued to pursue humanity even after sin entered the world. Share examples from Genesis 3-5 where God sought out sinful people. What does this teach us about God's character?
5. Read Romans 5:10. What does it mean that "while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God"? How should this truth impact how we view ourselves and others?
6. Why do you think many Christians struggle with "performance Christianity"—trying to earn their way back to God? How does this sermon challenge that mindset?

Section 3: The First Gospel

7. Read Genesis 3:15, the "Proto-Evangelium" (first gospel). Why is it significant that God announced His redemption plan immediately after the fall?
8. What is the significance of God mentioning "her seed" (the woman's seed) rather than the man's? How does this point to Jesus' virgin birth?
9. Read Genesis 3:21. How does God providing animal skins (requiring bloodshed) to cover Adam and Eve foreshadow the sacrifice of Jesus?

Section 4: Jesus' Mission

10. Read Philippians 2:7 and Matthew 17:1-2. Why was it necessary for Jesus to "empty Himself" and take on human form? What did He give up to become like us?
11. Jesus came "to seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). How does the word "seek" add depth to our understanding of salvation? Share a time when you felt Jesus seeking you.
12. Read 1 John 3:8. Jesus came "to destroy the works of the devil." What are some "works of the devil" you see in the world today? In your own life? How has Jesus defeated these?

CALL TO ACTION

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

1. Identity Check: Write down three lies you've believed about your identity or worth. Replace each with a truth from this sermon about how God sees you. Pray these truths daily.
2. Seek Someone: Just as Jesus seeks the lost, identify someone in your life who needs to know they're valued. Reach out to them this week with encouragement or an invitation to connect.
3. Study the Beginning: Read Genesis 1-5 this week, noting every time God pursues or provides for humanity even after sin enters. Journal what you discover about God's heart.
4. Memorize Scripture: Commit Luke 19:10 or Romans 5:10 to memory. Reflect on how this truth applies to your life.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray Together:

- Thank God for His unchanging heart toward His family
- Ask for revelation of your true identity as image-bearers of God
- Pray for those who feel unwanted or don't belong, especially during the holidays
- Invite the Holy Spirit to help you live from a place of being loved rather than trying to earn love
- Pray for anyone who doesn't yet know Jesus as Savior

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Read the full account of the Transfiguration: Matthew 17:1-13
- Study the concept of being "in Christ" through Ephesians 1-2