

## SEPTEMBER, 2021 RADICAL FORGIVENESS

FROM THE



PASTOR

The sayings of Jesus are not just loving, but they can be hard, and they can be very perplexing as well. This is true of the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:48, listen to his perplexing words, *“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”* How can anyone be as perfect as God the Father? Ask any child of a famous parent how difficult it is to make the grade. Imagine what it would be like to be the child of the Hall of Fame basketball player, Michael Jordan, arguably the greatest basketball player of all time.

To be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect is not about ethical living, rather, it is about being a created child of God. Think about this for a moment. Perfection is not about how you live, it's not whether or not you keep The Ten Commandments, or belonging to the perfect church, it's about being a created child of God, nothing else. In other words, it is not about you, but it is about God. And since it is about God, it's about you, because God has, by grace and love, made you a child of God. This is what the Bible says, 1 John 3:1, *“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are...”*

Who and what you are is important. Instead of cutting yourself and others down, visualize yourself and others as God's children. Instead of seeing yourself or others as failures, visualize yourself as God's best, God's created child. This is what the Bible says, Romans 8:37, *“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”* As my mom would say, “God doesn't make junk!”

Let's pray: It is me again God. Help me to see myself and others as children of God, loved, forgiven, and created in your image. Help me to go back to the time you created the first man and woman and understand that what you made was not junk, rather, it was good. Amen.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

**THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN. BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY, SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES WILL BE INDOORS BEGINNING NEXT SUNDAY AUGUST 29TH. THERE WILL BE REFRESHMENTS AND TREATS AVAILABLE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER WORSHIP.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER, THE CDC SAYS ANY UNVACCINATED PEOPLE MUST WEAR FACE MASKS INDOORS(OUTDOORS TOO). THE CDC RECOMMENDS VACCINATED PEOPLE WEAR MASKS INDOORS.**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU BACK IN OUR BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY.**