

# RESILIENT



## WORK IN PROGRESS

Philippians 1:6, 2:12 – 13

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## MESSAGE NOTES

*Christ is more of an artist than the artists. He works in the living spirit and the living flesh; He makes men instead of statues.* — Vincent van Gogh

*Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*  
— Philippians 1:6

### 1. Character construction is the spiritual maturity that God has already begun developing in us.

*When I invited Jesus in my life, I thought He was going to put up some wallpaper and hang a few pictures. But He started knocking out walls and adding on rooms. I said, "I was expecting a nice cottage." But He said, "I'm making a palace in which to live."* — C.S. Lewis

*And we ... are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*  
— 2 Corinthians 3:18

*God is for us far more, at times, than we would prefer. He is committed to removing all visages of sin from our soul when we wish He'd be satisfied with a clean new outfit. His interest in us far exceeds our concerns. Our perspective is usually limited to achieving a better life, and His desire for us is radical conformity to His Son's perfect character. No wonder He seems like an enemy when His discipline begins to grind off our arrogance in order to perfect His beauty.*

— Dan B. Allender

*Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose.* — Philippians 2:12 – 13

### 2. Character construction is a life-long cooperative work program.

*Put off ... put on ... watch your life ... persevere ... train ... discipline ... be prepared ... run with perseverance ...*

*His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. ... For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; ...* — 2 Peter 1:3 – 6

### 3. Character construction becomes way easier when I am consciously and continually surrendering to God.

*May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.*

— 1 Thessalonians 5:23 – 24

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*You will not find your identity in what you have, but in who has you. You will not find your identity in what you do, but in what has been done for you. And you will not find your identity in what you desire, but in who has desired — at infinite cost to Himself — a relationship with you. Christ is your life. He gives you a new identity and will work that new identity out in your life until the day when He appears. On that day you will finally see clearly, as Christ sees you now. You will know as you are known. And you will understand that the truest thing about you — that in Christ God called you His beloved in whom He is well pleased — has been true all along. And is now true forever. Believe. Trust. Base your entire identity and worth on that fact. — David Lomas, *The Truest Thing about You: Identity, Desire, and Why It All Matters**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck with you from the sermon at ENCOUNTER this past weekend?
- How is the analogy of dismantling and reconstructing a building a good way to visualize the work that God does in our character?
- What are some of the character changes that God typically brings about in a believer?
- Can you share one aspect of your character that you feel God has been especially working on lately?
- Why is spiritual transformation often an uncomfortable process?
- What are some things we commonly do to avoid that discomfort?
- In Philippians 2:12 – 13 what phrases clearly stand out that reveal our partnership with God when it comes to spiritual growth?
- How would you explain the concept of growing toward spiritual maturity?
- In what ways can pressure or trials actually accelerate our spiritual growth?
- What could you do this week to be fully partnered with God in your own process of spiritual development?