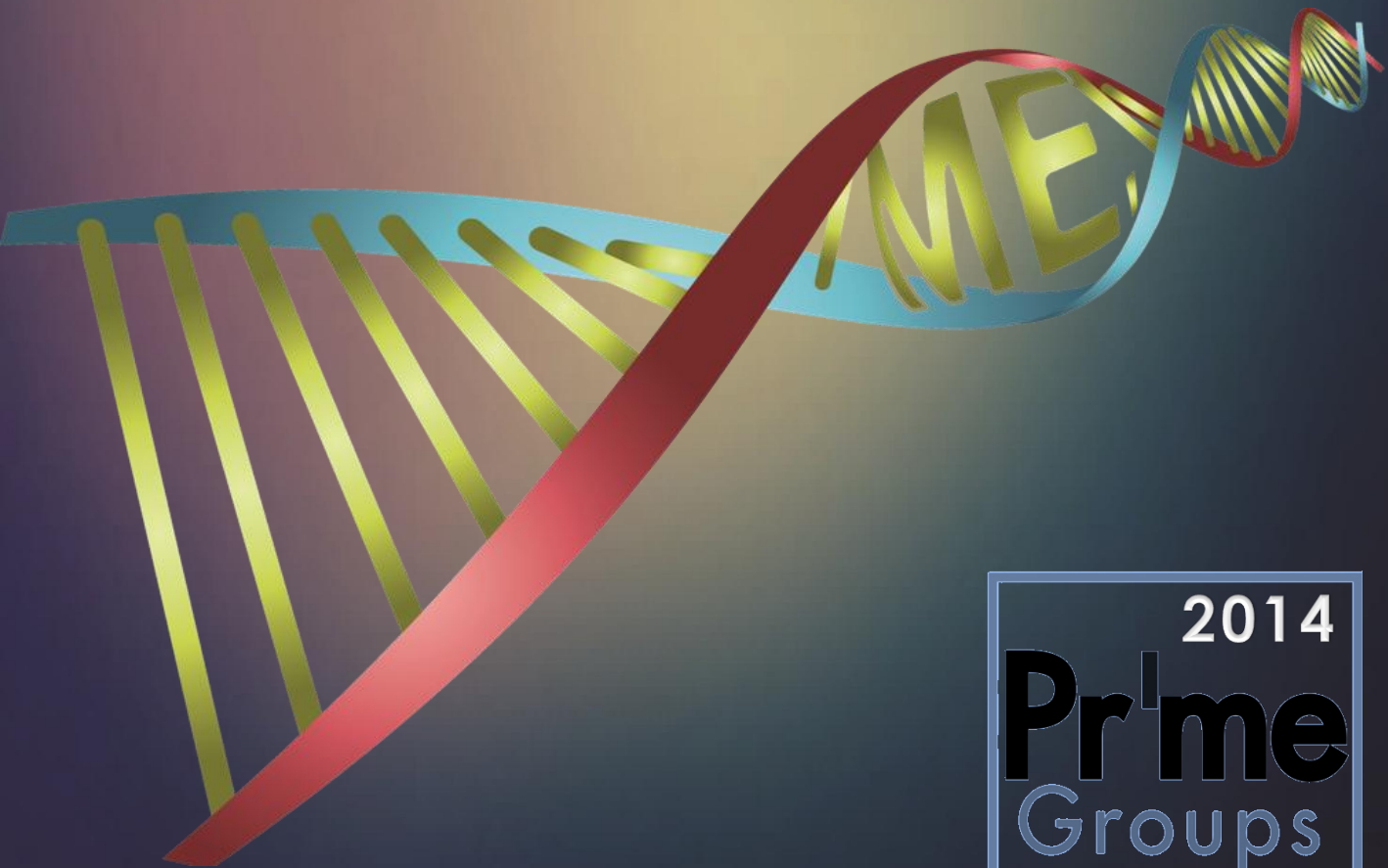


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2014

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Groups

The Point: You. New.

II Corinthians 5:17

Discussion Generators

- What stood out to you from this week's Point? (they can be funny, serious, stupid, or spiritual)
- II Corinthians 5:14-17.** What do you think Paul means here in verse 14 when he says "Christ's love controls us"? What have you loved in life so much that it controlled you in a similar way to how Christ's love should control us?
- Paul goes on to say that, "those who receive His new life will no longer live for themselves." What is that about? Does this mean that people who become Christ followers fall into submission like a minion in a cult to their leader or is this something else?
- Paul then goes on in verse 17 to say that "anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" What do you think he means by becoming a new person with an old life being gone and a new life begun? What do you believe that contrast looks like in a person's life?
- In relationship to verse 17, it was said during the point on Sunday that, "Christ died that we can live for Him not that you can live for yourself." We live in a culture that screams living for ourselves! What are some things that you or other people do that scream out "it's all about me"? If someone is a follower of Christ, why is it important for them to get over themselves and live for Christ?

- Read John 3:1-7. Jesus is delivering critical information to Nicodemus in this conversation. What is that information and why is it so critical? How does this relate to a person living a life for Christ rather than a life for themselves?
- Our culture of “all about me” is even prevalent in churches. It’s not always obvious and is even sometimes cleverly wrapped with a bow on it. On Aaron Loy’s blog, he posted a topic called “5 Really Bad Reasons To Leave Your Church”. Here are the five reasons: 1) I’m not being fed, 2) Its getting too big, 3) I don’t agree with everything being preached, 4) My needs aren’t being met, and 5) Unresolved conflict. Do you think these are driven by living for one’s self rather than living for Christ? Why or why not?
- These 5 reasons may not seem like something that would be an issue at MC3, but if it isn’t yet it probably will be at some point because there are humans involved. When you look at each of those five reasons, what can we do specifically as individuals to keep ourselves and others from falling into those traps?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:11. The first thing to realize is that for a person to grow up spiritually and put away childish things is that they must first follow what Christ had told Nicodemus, but for those that have been “born again” this verse talks about steps that we need to take as Christ followers. In relationship to living our lives for Christ or for ourselves instead, what comes to mind for you when you hear “put away childish things”? What kind of a ripple effect can our “childish “ behavior have on ourselves, others, and Christ’s church?
- As we wrap up this series, what have been your key takeaways? How do we put those takeaways into action?

II Corinthians 5:14-17 (NLT)

Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

John 3:1-7 (NLT)

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you." Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.'

I Corinthians 13:11 (NLT)

When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.