

GENESIS

begin. belong. believe.

Beginning Again...

(part VIII of the 'I Do' series – 3/25/12)

Big Idea

Often we simply live our lives and are not intentional in how we're living, that is, we're not working on our lives. To live intentional & purposeful in our lives and marriages we need to have convictions about **(1) the gospel, (2) our identity in Christ, (3) about hating and loathing sin, and about (4) our marriage.** To live well we need a plan for our lives. In working out a plan it's important to allow others into our plan and have them help us as well as seek to live out this plan within the context of community. We must always surrender everything to the Lord, understanding he has his own plans for us. It's also helpful to remember that our plan needs to be detailed and workable, it needs to be practical. To live a life well lived, we need to begin with the end in mind so we know where we're heading to.

Questions –

1. What are your convictions? Meaning, what are some things that you'd not only die for, but things that you'd be willing to live for – literally, give yourself to? How are these convictions shaping how you live on a day to day basis?
2. Are we driven in our lives by the gospel? Is what we do in work, home, marriage, etc. because of the gospel working its way into our lives? What would our lives look like if the gospel were driving what we did? (See 2 Corinthians 5:13-15)
3. Much of what we do comes out of our identity and where we get our significance. Is your identity wrapped up in Jesus? If not, what are we looking to and is that the kind of life we want?
4. Are we intentionally fighting sin with the gospel, or for show and self-righteous reasons?
5. What kind of marriage do you want and what are you doing now to produce that?
6. If you want a life that is focused on the gospel at work, in your home, in your relationships and with your marriage, what are you going to do this week to start working the gospel into these areas?

Practical Project –

If you'd begin working on your life, rather than just working in your life, you'll need a plan. Take this up-coming week to work on a plan in which you can begin implementing your convictions into your daily routines. Think through a 'holistic plan' – meaning, times in which you will spend time with God, with your spouse, your children, your friends. Think through how you will devote some of your time to study, learning, serving, connecting, exercising, and resting. Plan on sharing your 'plan' with your Community Group the following week.