

Theology: How it Works

MAY 12, 2024



SERIES OVERVIEW:

When we talk about theology, a lot of times, it can get very academic or detached from the Christian life. Over the next seven weeks, we want to journey together to help us take the study of God (theology) and ask, "Why do I need to know this?" "What do I need to know about it?" and "What do I do with this?" so that it becomes very practical - out of the clouds and into our homes and lives.

MESSAGE TAKEAWAYS:

**CHURCH IS THE RESULT OF A LOVING GOD SENDING JESUS TO SAVE SINNERS,
AND THEN THOSE SINNERS DOING SOMETHING.**

**THE CHURCH IS AN INHERENTLY INEFFICIENT, STRANGELY UNSTRATEGIC,
VERY MESSY BUT VERY MEANINGFUL, WEIRD BUT WONDERFUL AWESOMELY
DISAPPOINTING SOMETIMES GETTING IT RIGHT, USUALLY UNFULFILLING,
ULTIMATELY WORTH IT GATHERING OF REDEEMED AND RAGGED SINNERS.**

DEFINITIONS:

VISIBLE CHURCH:

THE LOCAL BODY OF BELIEVERS TO WHICH YOU BELONG

INVISIBLE CHURCH:

THE TOTALITY OF SAVED PEOPLE ACROSS ALL TIME

INFUSED RIGHTEOUSNESS:

*THE PROCESS BY WHICH SOMETHING IS GRADUALLY CHANGED
THROUGH ITS OWN EFFORT.*

IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS:

*THE POINT AT WHICH SOMETHING IS INSTANTLY CHANGED
BY THE EFFORT OF SOMEONE ELSE.*

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- Pastor Brannon said "***What you think about church starts with what you think about Jesus.***" Read Matthew 16:13-18. How does this text and the message help realign our understanding of the church as Jesus spoke it to be versus how we may have experienced it to be? In what ways does God's word call us to realign our hearts and minds in understanding? *As needed, pause and pray with grace with one another, remembering that God is the One who works all things out in each of us.*
- Pastor Brannon helped us see the function of the church through the lens of Inward (Ephesians 4:11-14) and Outward (1st Peter 2:9), which then glorifies God (Upward). Talk about how our unique giftings as members one of another help us fulfill growth in both areas. What is challenging for you? How can you encourage and pray for one another? How can you celebrate the individual giftings which strengthen the body as a whole?
- Pastor Brannon helped us understand imputed righteousness versus infused righteousness. Read these passages about imputed righteousness (2nd Corinthians 5:21, Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 6:14), then dialogue about how we are (led with gentleness) to understand and teach this truth. *As needed, pause and pray with grace with one another, remembering that God is the One who works all things out in each of us.*

FINAL THOUGHTS:

As we continue on this journey, we would love to help you in any way we can. If you are wondering what next steps are right for you, please reach out, and we'd love to have a conversation with you or your group about the season you are in and the places Jesus has entrusted to you as you seek to be formed by His Word.

Meet with a Pastor: <https://ncchapel.churchcenter.com/people/forms/551596>