Makeovers have taken the world by storm. You hear about total money makeovers, wardrobe makeovers, home makeovers.

- A house that is a wreck and has been badly neglected is turned into a dream home in a matter of days.
- A person who is accustomed to wearing ripped t-shirts and faded blue jeans gets introduced to business casual and maybe a few extra grooming tips that were otherwise ignored.
- A family that is in debt up to the eyeballs now works at getting rid of that mountain of debt, they are taught how to develop a budget and live by that budget.

The idea of a total makeover is so fascinating to us. So much so, that the topic as been covered by bestselling authors, radio talks show hosts, and even reality TV.

But have you ever wondered how long that makeover will last?
- How long will it take for the freshly renovated dream home to become the badly neglected wreck?
- How long will it take for the khakis and dress shirts to be replaced by the broken in Levis and t-shirts?
- How long before the family on the budget reverts back to the family on a spending binge?

If there isn’t a change of heart, the outward appearances and activity will never be able to keep pace. If there isn’t a change from within…if there isn’t a renewed heart behind it all, makeovers are nothing more than putting a new set of tires on a rusted out ’57 Chevy that has no engine…or slapping a nice new coat of paint on a condemned building that is rotting away on the inside.

What does all this have to do with you and me? After all, we’re here in church to learn about Jesus and what he means for my daily life. Why all this talk about makeovers?

Well, sometimes Christians think we can make all our problems disappear if we just had a spiritual makeover. Our church budget woes would go away if the members of Peace would just learn how to give. Our family woes would evaporate if husbands and wives would just learn how to be better husbands and wives. A whole lot of problems would vanish if people would just learn how to love each other more, how to manage their time better, and how to set priorities more wisely. Of course, that is partially true. We do need to know how to love if we are to love, how to give if we are to give, how to serve if we are to serve. But even more important than the HOW is the WHY. Even more important than the outward appearance and activity is the condition of the inner heart.

I’d like to read for you a few verses from 2 Corinthians chapter 5. **For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.** 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. ...(and later on in verse 17) if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

You might not have noticed, but over the past few months there has been one weekend each month set aside for the theme: Every Soul’s a Treasure. We’ve been looking at our unique and totally undeserved identity:

- Fashioned and formed by God, the Loving Creator.
- Purchased and won by God, the Redeeming Son.
- Sanctified, set apart, and called by God, the Holy Spirit.

That’s more than a makeover…more than just a fresh coat of paint…more than just pumping up our flat tires or combing our hair in a different direction. Paul tells us, “**If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.**” God didn’t do a remodeling job on us, he started from scratch…he pulled us out by the roots and planted us anew. God said, “**I know by nature you are dead in sin. I know you look at me as your enemy. But I’m going to give you the breath of life. I’m going to make you my dearest friend.**”
How did he do that? “We are convinced that one died for all.” That just doesn’t seem fair. If the teacher leaves the room just for a few moments, and in his absence all the students start talking and throwing things at each other and being altogether rowdy…all but one. This one student sits quietly and obediently, waiting for the teacher to return. And when the teacher does return would it make sense for him to hand down a severe punishment to the one obedient student and let the other rebels go free? That’s not fair!

Yet, that’s what Jesus did. He – the one obedient and righteous One – died for all. This was no accidental death. This was no tragedy – just someone in the wrong place at the wrong time. This was a purposeful sacrifice that Jesus laid down on behalf of all people…present company included. “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us” (Galatians 3:13), Paul wrote to the Galatians. And if we were to read on a few more verses in 2 Corinthians 5, we would hear him say, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us” (5:21).

“All we need to do is take our filthy rag and hand it over to Christ. He is the one who was willing to die for all so that we can be accepted. He is the one who, in the end, will be satisfied because it is all about loving and pleasing you, my dear Christ. He’s not interested in anything else. He’s not interested in our little dramas and petty complaints. He wants this world to see that we are the ones who follow your footsteps. He wants them to know that we are devoted to you.”

But instead he says, “You are everything to me. And so I have died in your place…and I have nailed your sins to the cross…and I have called you into my family of believers…and I have given you more than a makeover…I have given you a new life and a new heart.”

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”

Christ had given Paul more than a makeover. He gave him a renewed, rejuvenated heart. As a result, Paul saw and did things differently now – not living for himself but for his Savior.

- Isn’t that why Paul put Christ first – calling everything else rubbish by comparison?
- Isn’t that why Paul labored and toiled day and night, often times enduring ridicule, beatings, stoning, and imprisonment – that those who looked at him and his ministry called him out of his mind?
- Isn’t that why he displayed such a tireless zeal in everything he did – often times with very little appreciation and very little outward reward?

The unbelievable love Christ had poured onto Paul was the fuel that kept not just a little bitty pilot light in his heart going, but a contagious and consuming fire of discipleship and dedication and devotion. And that’s the same unbelievable love that has touched me and you. We too, have received more than a makeover, but rather a renewed, rejuvenated heart. And as a result, we see things and think about things differently – not with selfish eyes and self-serving hearts, but with eyes and hearts fixed on Christ.

We don’t put Christ at the top of our list because it seems like a good idea. We put him first in our hearts because that’s what he deserves…because that’s what he wants us to do…because that’s what we are driven and compelled to do.

- Why do we love him? Because he first loved us…and he hasn’t ever stopped.
- Why do we serve him? Because he first served us…and he hasn’t ever stopped.
- Why do we bring gifts to him? Because he first gave us everything…and he hasn’t ever stopped.

I invite you to open your hymnals to hymn #454 and we’ll close by singing verse 6.