

NEW STARTS ARE REAL

IS GRACE TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

PASTOR V

THE QUESTION

Can the cycle really break with me? Can I really change?

THE TENSION

Cynicism says people don't change—it points to broken promises, toxic cycles, and stories that end the same way every time. Our past says we can't—it drags receipts, replaying every failure like proof that we're stuck. Trauma says we're marked forever, and culture says, "That's just who you are." But the gospel cuts through the noise and says transformation is possible—real, lasting, from-the-inside-out possible.

THE STORY BENEATH IT ALL

In **Creation**, we were made new in God's image. (Gen. 1:27)

In the **Fall**, sin enslaved us (Eph. 2:1–3).

In **Redemption**, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).

In **Restoration**, God will make all things new (Rev. 21:5).

THE COLLISION BETWEEN THE OLD SELF AND THE NEW

The old self is chained to what used to be—dead in sin, ensnared by habits, trapped in patterns that feel unbreakable. It carries shame, regret, and the labels the world has stamped across your life. But grace doesn't just forgive—it transforms. In Christ, the old passes away and the new comes. What once defined you no longer owns you. The grave clothes come off, and a new creation steps out.

SO WHY DOES IT MATTER TODAY?

Without transformation, we stay trapped—cycling through the same patterns, repeating the same mistakes, replaying the same shame. The old self keeps us ensnared, convincing us nothing will ever change. But with grace, we step into freedom. Grace doesn't just cover the past; it breaks the chains of the present and opens a new future. In Christ, the old passes away, the new has come, and what once held us no longer has the final word.

THE CYCLE SAYS "SAME OLD YOU." THE CROSS SAYS, "BRAND NEW CREATION."