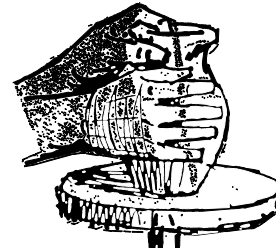


His Workmanship at Westside

*"For we are His
workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus for good works."
—Ephesians 2:10*



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Isaiah 64:8

The Most Influential Man in Your Life (You Might Be Surprised!) by Paula Hendricks

I don't know you personally, but I can narrow the most influential man in your life down to one of two men. I don't have a glass ball, and I haven't stalked your Twitter account, but I know because these two men have been the two most important men in my life, too. Even though I've let you in on lots of guys who have impacted my life over the years in my books and articles, these two men have shaped who I am today infinitely more than Mike, Neil, Jack, and Jim.

The surprising thing is, no two men have been more impactful in your story, either. I'm not talking about your dad (important as he is!). I'm talking about Adam and Jesus Christ.

How Adam Shaped Your Story.

You probably already know Adam was the first man God created! You can read his story in Genesis 2-3. You might think a man who lived so long ago has nothing to do with your life today, but you'd be dead wrong about that. Paul shared how even now Adam impacts your life: *"Just as sin came into the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned,"* Rm 5:12. If you want to throw rocks at Adam now

because he sinned and brought on death, think again. The end of the verse makes it clear that *"all sinned."* Romans 3:23 confirms it: *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* There's no doubt that Adam was the most influential man in your life. His story shaped your story. The question is: *"Is Adam still the most influential man in your life?"* or is Jesus Christ?

Look at Romans 5:12-19:

- In Adam there is defeat, but in Christ there is victory.
- In Adam there is sin and condemnation, but in Christ there is grace and justification.
- In Adam we receive a tendency to sin, but in Christ we receive a new tendency to be righteous.
- In Adam we are cursed, but in Christ we are blessed.
- In Adam there is wrath and death, but in Christ there is love and life.

How Christ Can Transform Your Story. Romans 5:15-19 shares some amazing news: *"But the free gift is not like the offense. For if many died through one man's*

[Adam's] offense, much more the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded to many.... For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous." It's true that Adam's story was your story. But Christ Jesus wants to transform your story by giving you new life—His life!

A New Identity. When you are born again in Christ, you receive a brand-new identity. *Everything* changes—everything becomes new—beginning with you. Your identity is not sci-fi continued on p. 2

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me."
—Galatians 2:20

nerd or musician. Your identity is either wrapped up "in Adam" or "in Christ." And the implications of that identity are *huge*. Eternal. Forever.

Three Truths That Will Forever Change Your Life. Which man has been—and is—most influential in your life? Are you in Adam or in Christ? Some of you will make comments like, "*I am in-between both of those characteristics: Adam and Christ. Some days I give in to the world's temptations, other days I live my life for Christ. It is a never-ending battle.*" But here's the thing: being in Christ is less about your experience and more about your identity and position in Christ. There isn't any in-between, Mt 6:24. You're either all the way "in Adam" or all the way "in Christ." Paul said that when you were baptized, you were baptized "*into Christ*," Gal 3:26-27, made "*sons of God*," and "*baptized into His death*," Rm 6:3. He said God "*made us alive together with Christ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus*," Eph 2:4-6. Our position is "in Christ," raised to new life, seated with Him in heavenly places. What is our identity? We are the children of God, Rm 8:14-17; 1 Jn 3:1-2; 5:2; Phil 2:15; the household of God, Eph 2:19; the temple of God, 1 Cor 3:16-19; 2 Cor 6:16-18; Eph 2:21; 1 Pet 2:5; the followers (disciples) of Christ, Christians, Ax 11:26; 1 Pet 2:21; 3:13; Mt 10:28; 16:24; Mk 10:28-30; Lk 14:26-33; Jn 10:4-5; 12:26.

The fact is, all of us were born "in Adam," but if and when we put our trust in Jesus to be our righteousness and are baptized into Him, we are born again "in Christ." We are one with Him now. It's a fact. Paul began Romans 6 by asking, "Should we keep

sinning because we've been shown such extravagant grace in Jesus?" "*NO WAY!*" he bursts in on himself. We've died to sin! We died and were buried with Jesus in baptism, and now we, too, have a brand-new life. We have power over sin. Three facts make it so: **dead to sin, alive to God, and in Christ Jesus.**

Our job—to *believe it to be so*: "*You also must consider yourselves **dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus***," Rm 6:11.

As you begin to operate out of who you are (dead to sin, alive to God, in Christ Jesus), it will drastically change what you do, that is, live in Christ (do justice [righteousness], love mercy, walk humbly with Him each day). Here is an excerpt from my book:

A Whole New Me. My whole life I'd struggled to defeat the power of sin—with no success. But now I was reading startling truths I'd never grasped. It wasn't only Jesus Who had died—I'd died with Him (in baptism). It wasn't only Jesus Who had been buried—my old self, burdened with sin, had been buried with Him, too (in baptism). And when Jesus burst out of that tomb with brand-new resurrection life, He gave new life to me, too (when I rose from the baptismal grave)! I identified with Him in baptism, and He gave me a new identity. "*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave himself for me,*" Gal 2:20.

For the first time, I understood that Jesus didn't die to forgive me of my sins and then leave me in them. He died to forgive me AND to free me from the power of sin; see Rm 15:13; 1:16; 1 Cor 1:18-2:5; 5:4; 2 Cor 13:4;

Col 1:11; 2 Thes 1:11; 2 Tim 1:7-8; 2 Pet 1:3-5; Ax 4:33; 26:18; Eph 1:19; 3:20-21; 6:10. Suddenly I realized I didn't have to be jealous of that pretty girl. I didn't have to hate that guy for not liking me. I didn't have to covet every i-phone I saw. I wasn't powerless anymore. In fact, in Christ I was no longer a helpless, purposeless, hopeless person. I had a new identity now: I was dead to sin, alive to God, and in Christ Jesus. My job? Believing it to be so and living in light of that truth. From that point on, I saw God begin to change not only my outward behavior but even the hidden desires of my heart. When I actually became a Christian in baptism, I really understood why the gospel was such good news! It was the beginning of my whole new life. Notice I said "the beginning." It's not like I was instantly transformed. But as I remembered, believed, and made these truths personal, my despair was gradually replaced by hope. I stopped trying so hard. I started believing that I had already died with Christ. I gave up control and let Jesus take over.

How about you? Have you repented of your sin and put all your faith in Christ's righteousness instead of your own? Have you made Jesus Christ your Lord? Have you identified with Him in baptism? Then you are now dead to sin, alive to God, and in Christ Jesus. Regardless of how you lived yesterday (or today), this is true of you. Now, begin to live these truths. Wear them. Remember them. Relish them. Thank God for them!

There is no such thing as "a Christian life" in the Scriptures. We aren't living "a Christian life." We are living the life of Christ.



Psalm 133:1



Fill your canteen in 2013

“May you be filled with all the fullness of God.”
—Ephesians 3:19

Five Finger Prayer author unknown

1. Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember; to pray for our loved ones is, as C.S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, counselors, and preachers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, judges, government/ military leaders. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's wisdom.
4. The fourth finger, our ring finger, is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will tell you. It reminds us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble, or in pain. They need our prayers day and night. We cannot pray too much for them.
5. Last is our little finger, the smallest. This is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. Jesus said, "he who is least among you all will be great," Lk 9:48. Your pinky should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective, and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

A Boy Prays for Shoes

A little boy about ten years old was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold. A woman walked up to the boy and said, "My little fellow, why are you looking so earnestly in that window?" "I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes," he said. The woman took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he



could show her to a basin of water and a towel. He quickly took her and the boy to the back of the store. Removing her gloves, she knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with a towel. By this time, the clerk

had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she had him try on shoes and purchased a pair for him. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, "Now, my little fellow, don't you feel more comfortable?" As she turned to go, the boy caught her by the hand, and looking up in her face with tears in his eyes, said, "Are you God's wife?" See Jn 13:3-17.

WELCOME: We eagerly and delightedly receive you into our worship today! Your presence here gives us great pleasure and joy, and we are grateful to you and to God for gracing our assembly! If you have needs and want someone to listen, to help, and to pray with you, we're here with open hearts to share God's love and comfort. After the sermon, the elders will be available in the foyer for immediate prayer and support.

Discipleship

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here and away
Christina Adams's daughter Kayla—kidney infection with early pregnancy
Bella Gonzalez—breathing problems
Delmar Hice, Pat Campbell's father—recurring lung infections; home from hospital
Mark Campbell—improving at Rocky Mtn Brain Injury Service in CO Springs
Megan Sangellino's grandmother, Norma Trump—hip surgery, in rehab; depressed
Remember **Megan Aki** and the girls; the **Andrew Tope** family; the **Reames** family; **Forrest Corray**, Jordan's brother—addiction
Wes Nichols—stage 4 cancer in tongue, lymph nodes, no insurance, young family in Parker. Donate at nickels4nichols.com

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr; Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes—asthma
Pearl Chapman—leg pains; pancreatitis
Nell Free—pacemaker, heart; back pain
Rod Green—thyroid trouble
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy
Jonathan Hadders—RA
Danielle Huelsman—vertigo, CV syndrome
Kirk Johnson—worsening MS; needs help around his house
Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak;
Virginia, worsening rapid macular degeneration; high BP
Sandra Perry—neuropathy from diabetes
Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia
Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; severe arthritis
Judy Sartin's grandson Tristen—autism
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung
Pat Wilkes—hyper parathyroidism

Job concerns **Megan Aki, Lorenzo Gonzalez, Linda Szymanski, and Andrew Tope** are seeking jobs.

Expecting **Liz Kosik**, early April
Rejoice **Kaysha Howell and Brett Witherington** were wed last weekend.
Lazar Gintchin's mother is here from Bulgaria for six months with the family.



Exposing current thoughts & trends

ObamaCare Secrets on Abortion Coverage *by Perkins*

As Congress debates ObamaCare, one issue that almost stopped the law in 2009—yet still receives scant media coverage—is the law's subsidies for abortion coverage. ObamaCare is funded through mandatory spending so as to avoid the Hyde Amendment, the provision which stops appropriated funds for the Department of Health and Human Services from paying for abortion or even subsidizing plans with abortion coverage. The President promised when the health care bill passed that it would not cover abortion, but buried deep within the 2,700 pages is language Nancy Pelosi was hoping Americans would never read, the abortion surcharge scheme. If an insurer decides to cover abortion in its plan, and the government subsidizes people's premiums in that plan, every single person in that plan is required to pay an extra abortion surcharge!

Adding insult to injury, the same section also requires that all information about the abortion coverage and surcharge be given only at the time enrollees receive their overall benefits package. The law states: "coverage of the services described in paragraph (1)(B)(i) [elective abortion] shall provide a notice to enrollees only as part of the summary of benefits and coverage explanation, at the time of enrollment, of such coverage." And the same secrecy clause applies to the abortion surcharge. If a person wonders why he is paying for his premium as well as a separate small fee, the insurer may only provide information about the entire cost of the plan—not how much they are paying for abortion.

To put a spotlight on this abortion secrecy clause, Congress held a bipartisan press conference last week announcing new legislation titled the "Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2013." Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA), and pro-life Democrat Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL) introduced this bill to ensure transparency. The Smith/Pitts/Lipinski bill at least will let Americans know whether they are paying for elective abortion or not under ObamaCare.

This is just another example of how the government is encroaching on religious liberty through its laws. "Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths," Is 59:7; cf. Ps 106:37-38; Pr 24:11-12. Most Christians view abortion as unrighteous and do not want to promote it in any way, see Jer 1:4-5; Job 31:14; 10:10-11; Ps 139:13-16; Lk 1:15, 39-44; Is 44:24; 49:1; cf. Ex 20:13; Deut 30:15, 19; Pr 6:16-17. Therefore, we "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are appointed to die," Pr 31:8.



meets at
13789 W. 8th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401
720-295-4530
info@thechurchingolden.com
www.thechurchingolden.com

Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 462-4987
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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This morning: "What Makes a Real Man" by Jim Reingrover

This afternoon: "Making Judgments" by Larry Campbell