

THE BIG IDEA: We _____ when we put our _____.

1. Does God want me to be planted?

2. What happens when I'm planted?



The Take-Off

Of all the series that we've done at The Gathering (and with our 1 year birthday coming up, that's quite a few), I've not felt such a special touch on one like I have this one.

That doesn't mean I haven't loved them all, but I truly sense this series is a "now" series for us

This series - if we really come to terms with the truths covered - has the potential to rock us to our core and yet establish us firmly as disciples of Jesus and as a church

Today is week one of PLANTED, a series that will take a look at what the Bible has to say about membership in the body - specifically to local body - of Jesus

Now, that term "body" can be a bit confusing to those of us who are new to the Christian faith or perhaps are still considering the faith. Maybe you're new to the whole church thing and right about now you're wondering where the body is that I'm talking about and when I'm going to bring it out!

The "body of Christ" is a phrase that the Bible uses to describe the church, and we'll get to why it uses that terminology later in the series.

For now, let's just focus on that word "planted."

When I think of planted, I think of.....right, plants. Nothing spectacular there, right.

But plants can teach us something, and the biggest thing we can learn from them is this (and this is the Big Idea): **we grow up when we put our roots down.**

Not that we always want to grow up. In fact, most of us can relate to wanting freedom and feeling limitless, not wanting any responsibilities. Some of you parents may have children that could wear this t-shirt (Stay at Home Son).

But spiritually, just like physically, growing up starts with settling down.

Don't mistake that for settling. God has great plans that will always have us stretching and reaching. But settling down is about planting yourself in a place where your roots can go down deep.

So today, as we start laying some foundation for the next 2 weeks, I want to answer two specific questions: does God want us to be planted and, what happens when we are?

1. Does God want us to be planted?

Let's take a look at 4 passages and see if the answer isn't pretty obvious:

a. Psalm 1:1-4

i. This psalm describes 2 types of people

- a) wicked
- b) blessed

ii. But verse 3 only describes one of them - the blessed man

iii. Does God want us to be planted? It would seem so, wouldn't it?

iv. We'll come back to see what happens when we're planted, but for now let's put this verse down as a "yes" to our current question: does God want me to be planted?

b. Jeremiah 17:8

i. Again, just like in the previous passage, God is giving a prophetic word about cursed men and blessed men

ii. Verse 8 describes the blessed man, and describes him as a tree planted

iii. Seems pretty certain that this would fall into the "yes" side of the answer to our question

c. Colossians 2:7

i. If we start in verse 6, we'll see some pretty straight-forward commands from Paul about the Christian life

ii. It starts with salvation

iii. It continues with living for Christ

iv. Part of that process is the desire for us to be "rooted" in Christ

- a) Greek word is "rhizoo"
- b) only used 2x in NT

c) means "to strengthen with roots, to fix, establish, cause a person to be thoroughly grounded"

v. Again, the answer to our first question is getting pretty obvious, but let's look at one more passage

d. Ephesians 3:17

i. We read this verse last week and talked about Paul's prayer for the Ephesians

ii. He wanted them to really get how much God loved them

iii. Part of how they could know the love of God was to become more and more "rooted" in His love

iv. God wanted them planted

So, does God want us planted? The answer is a resounding YES.

2. What happens when we're planted?

So, we've answered the first question, haven't we? Without a doubt, God desires that each one of us be planted.

The next question is what is the benefit of being planted? What happens in our lives when we are?

Let's look back through the four Scriptures we've already read to find out:

- a. Psalm 1:1-4, 6
 - i. Planted people are blessed (v. 1)
 - ii. Planted people are surrounded by good influences (v. 1)
 - iii. Planted people are fruitful (v. 3)
 - iv. Planted people are strong (v. 3)
 - v. Planted people are prosperous (v. 3)
 - vi. Planted people are watched over by God (v. 6)
- b. Jeremiah 17:8
 - i. Planted people are courageous (v. 8)
 - ii. Planted people are full of life (v. 8)
 - iii. Planted people are peaceful (v. 8)
 - iv. Planted people are fruitful **even in bad times** (v. 8)
- c. Colossians 2:7, 8
 - i. Planted people are established (v. 7)
 - ii. Planted people are strengthened in their faith (v. 7)
 - iii. Planted people are thankful (v. 7)
 - iv. Planted people are stable (v. 8)
- d. Ephesians 3:17
 - i. Planted people are loving (v. 17)
 - ii. Planted people are together with others (v. 18)
 - iii. Planted people are full - to the brim - with God's love (v. 19)

Obviously, a lot of good things happen in our lives when we're planted, but most of them can be summed up in one word: we **grow**.

Remember the Big Idea: **we grow up when we put our roots down**.

The important question is where should we put our roots down - where does God want us to be planted? We'll tackle that one next week.

The Landing

Many of us can feel like we're just drifting along not really secure or attached to anything other than some "hard to explain" feeling-driven faith in Jesus.

We live our lives in this drifting mode, always a bit unsettled, always feeling like we're missing something.

More than likely, we are. What we're missing are the benefits of being planted, because until we put our roots down, we don't really start to grow.

God's desire for your life and mine is that we would be strong, established, full of love, life, and blessing, and the only way that He's made for that to happen is for us to be planted.