

How Do We Change?

Hope for Change

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-- fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

God's Design for Your Life...Fruitfulness

- *The fruit* of transforming a community with the truth & love of Christ
- *The fruit* of producing other Christ followers
- *The fruit* of becoming like Christ in heart & character



Hope for Change

The normal life of following Christ = FRUITFULNESS

This is the message of I John

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that **you may know** that you have eternal life.

Life connected with the God whose eternal life changes your entire life.....making it fruitful

1 John 5:18 **We know** that anyone born of God does not continue to sin

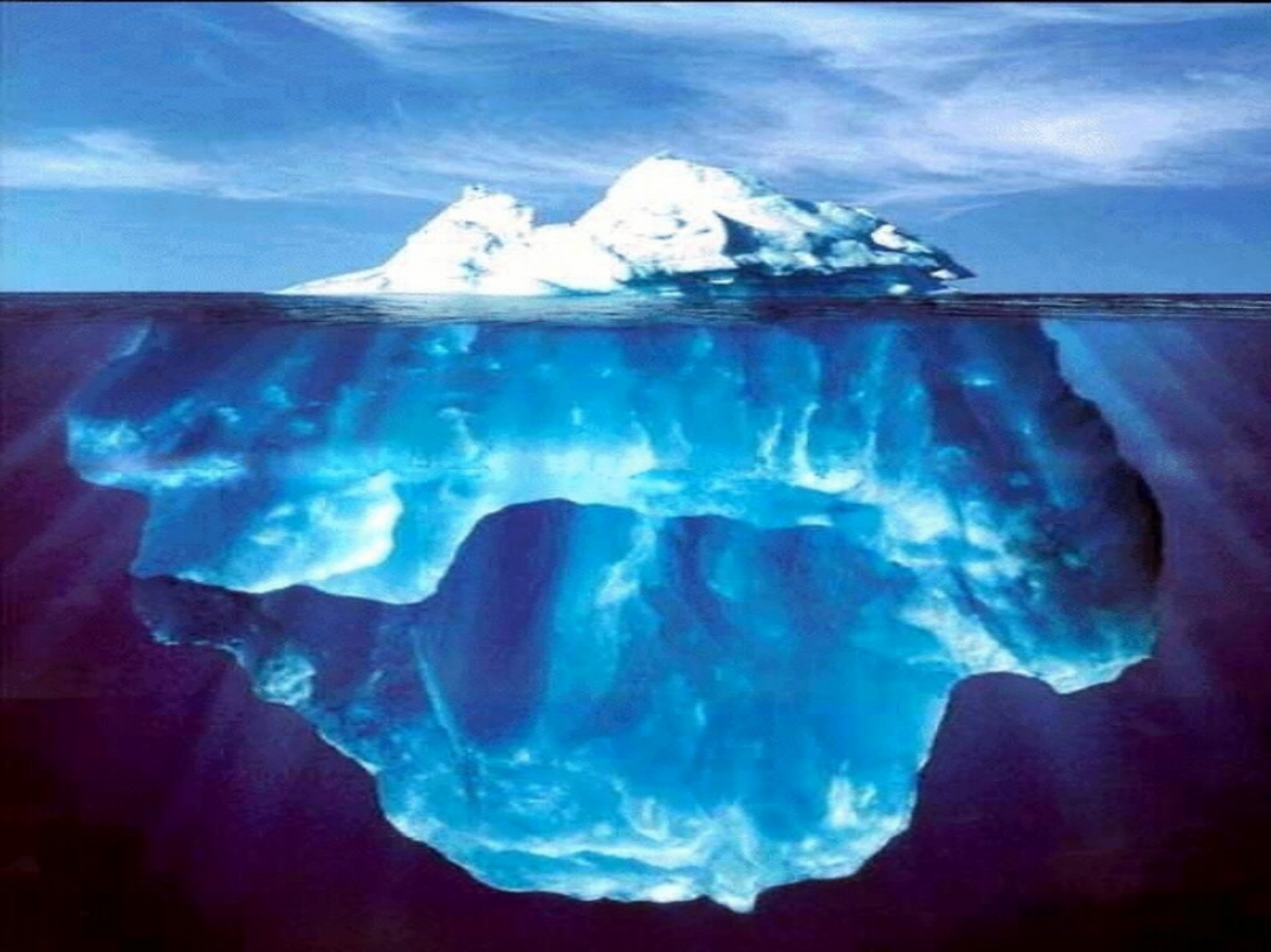


Hope for Change

How do you experience this fruit?

Guard Yourselves from Idols (5:21)





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Look beneath the consequences
beneath the surface sins
below this water line to the sin beneath the sin

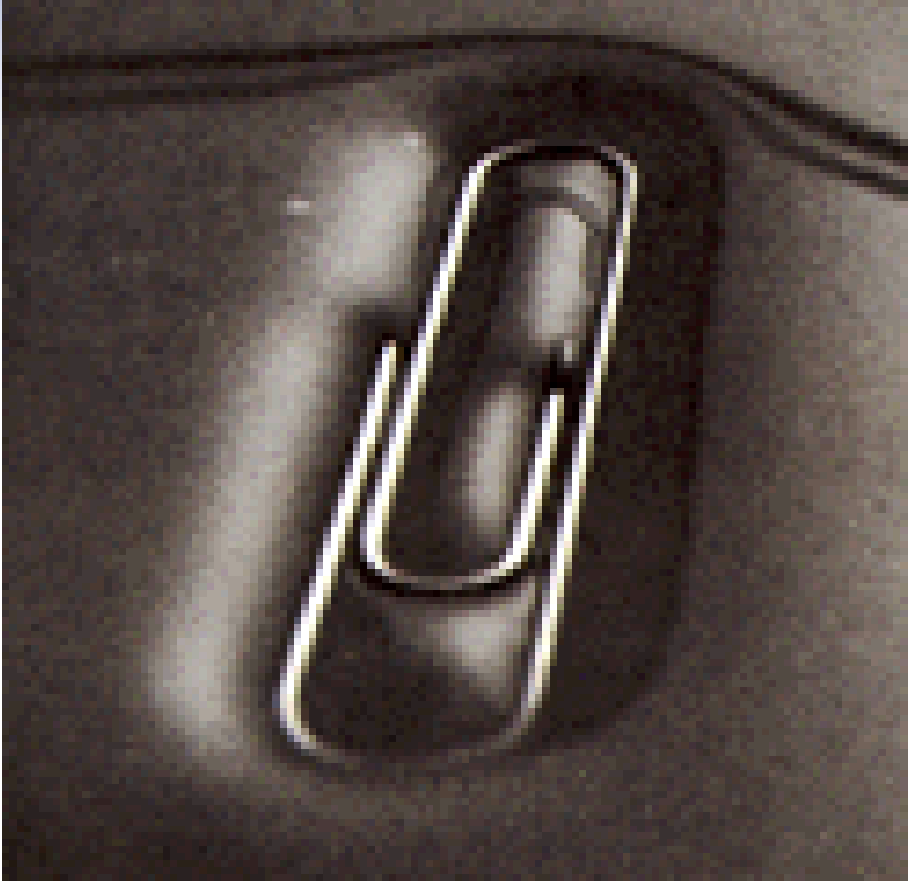
IDOLATRY... the sin beneath the sin

Any good thing that becomes more important than God for your happiness, meaning, identity

It's hard to look below the surface... Water's "surface tension"



How Do We Change?



Hope for Change

How do you experience this fruit?

Guard Yourselves from Idols (5:21)

Look beneath the consequences

beneath the surface sins

below this water line to the idolatry...sin beneath the sin

It's hard to look below the surface... Water's "surface tension"

Surface tension – it's hard to identify something as wrong that you believe is deeply true...that you deeply believe will bring you life

Trusting in the certainties you have in Christ is like detergent that breaks up surface tension



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Guard Yourselves from Idols (5:21)

What are your idols???

Questions to help see below the water line...



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Guard Yourselves from Idols (5:21)

The Power of Faith (5:4-5)

1 John 5:4-5 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Victory over a world system that is in your heart

**...a system of beliefs (idolatry) that shapes the way we view life,
understand ourselves, approach happiness**

Eg. *Feb. 20, 2007, Washington Post*

“Goodbye Girlhood: As Pop Culture Targets Ever Younger Girls, Psychologists Worry about Premature Focus on Sex & Appearance”



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Guard Yourselves from Idols (5:21)

The Power of Faith (5:4-5)

Faith lives life continually looking outside yourself to Christ...
...and then looking back from Christ to yourself

Looking back to yourself from Christ you see **WHO YOU ARE**

1 John 5:18 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.

God creates something new in you that radically changes your
relationship to sin (idolatry)



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Faith lives life continually looking outside yourself to Christ...
...and then looking back from Christ to yourself

Looking back to yourself from Christ you see **WHO YOU ARE**

1 John 5:1-3 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

This life God creates in your heart puts him back in the center of your life...the ultimate object of your love & affection & allegiance



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Obedience is not the way you change

...Obedience is the fruit of change God has created in you



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Looking back to yourself from Christ you see **WHO YOU ARE**

1 John 5:19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

You are His child because God rescued you



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The Power of Faith (5:4-5)

Faith lives life continually looking outside yourself to Christ...
...and then looking back from Christ to yourself

Continually looking beyond/outside yourself to Christ

1 John 5:20 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true-- even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

You know/experience an ultimate reality that redefines all reality

You have come to know because God's reality has entered history
in God the Son



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To have a relationship with Christ is to have life...
a new reality within you that makes the fruit of a change the norm

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*Feedback...*this is really helping me understand who I am

*Warning...*you cannot truly understand who you are if this series is not helping you more deeply trust in Jesus each day

