

You may have seen our family around Trinity over the last 12 years, however it probably hasn't always been quite like you see it up there. Candance and I started coming here before any of our boys were even born. And now Chayce is 11, Finn is 9 and Boden is 6...time just seems to go by so fast. Even though it has gone fast, God has truly used these years in my life as a husband and father to help me grow in my walk with the Lord. As Ephesians 5:23 says "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word". God has called me (and all of us husbands) to be filled with the Holy Spirit and love our wives as Christ loved the church. What an incredible calling that is in our lives! And he has been teaching me this over these last 12 years of fatherhood and the last 15 years of marriage.

However, my walk with Christ did not start when I got married. I grew up in a Christian home and went to church my whole life. Fast forwarding through, it wasn't until college that my faith was grounded and began to grow. One thing I struggled with (which I didn't even realize at the time) was I swore like a sailor and thought nothing of it. One of my teammates on my basketball team, who was not a professing Christian, asked me after a rant of language that left my mouth "I thought you are a Christian?" God could not have been clearer than that! He used that moment to change my heart and turn from sin. After that, God continued to show me my sins and the freedom of following Christ. He continued to turn my heart to repentance. I threw out all of my music CD's. I remember going to church each Sunday and God calling me to turn from the things I had thought were ok. I started meeting with a couple other of my teammates and friends in the mornings, walking through the bible. God was working in my heart.

Another major growth period in my life has come in the last 7 or so years at Trinity. Prior to these years, I had been stagnant in my walk and had no desire to continue to learn or get into the Word. I don't remember any particular sermon or study we were going through in church, but God led me to open up my bible in the mornings and start reading through Acts. God gave the example of the men and women in the early church and their passion for the Lord. It galvanized my heart to see these individuals lay their lives down for Christ who died on the cross for us. It was like I had never read it before. It was the first time that I just craved the Word and wanted to know more and read more.

And here I am today. Through all these years, still, so far from perfect, but yet so humbled by God's grace for me a sinner. I have spent a lot of time over the last couple of months going through scriptures regarding elders in 1 Timothy, Titus and Acts. Each time I go through them I realize that it is only through Christ that my heart wants to be obedient to serve Him and the church. As Paul says in Colossians 1:28 "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ." This also is my desire, to serve Christ by shepherding his flock that we all might grow together in obedience, faith and love towards our precious Savior.