

Clinging Like Ivy

English Ivy

Pretty, Pernicious, and Tenacious

Step by step, inch by inch...

Even after it's been pruned off, the suckers leave their mark

Because I tend to be depressive and passive, I let the ivy grow, knowing it was a bad idea but not believing that I could have greater tenacity than the ivy. Then one day, I just started taking it down. It took less than an hour.

Sin and Other Misguided Ideas

Attractive and harmless at first

Become embedded

Distorting the mind and the soul

A History of Bad Ideas

Simon Peter's ideas on the Messiah
understood Jesus to be it
didn't trust Jesus to know what it meant
Jesus' thought conflicted with Peter's

Conspiracy theories: no moon landings, flat earth, birtherism, antivax

Earth-centered solar system and universe

Fight against powered flight
Ongoing fight for more leg room

Fight for women's suffrage
Ongoing fight for women's rights

Fight against slavery
Ongoing fight for civil rights

Fight for marriage equality
Ongoing fight for full inclusion

Fight to eradicate white supremacy

Fight to eradicate poverty

Listen to Jesus!

If you cling to your life, you will lose it
Not only physical existence
but also the deeply held beliefs about how the world works
notwithstanding, our love and trust for God in Christ Jesus

In submitting to death Jesus allows God to break death's hold on humanity

The resurrection vindicates Jesus as God's liberator, working to free the earth from greed,
corruption, oppression, idolatry, and ultimately, death

There are no technical reasons why we have to have poverty, hunger, or bigotry in the world
today except that we cling to the belief that they belong in our world.

The scriptures call us away from that belief, like scraping ivy from your walls

Where we are

If you are new to this, trust in Jesus, who gave up everything to reconcile the world to God

If you are stuck, with sin, bitterness, brokenness or addiction clinging so closely you can
hardly breathe, trust in Jesus, who overcame all the powers of death and hell by his
resurrection and believe with him your life can change for good

If you are moved by the suffering of people around us, whether you know them or not, but
you aren't sure if things can change, trust in Jesus, and in the power of the Holy Spirit
pray, speak, act on their behalf, listening to their pain, standing with them in their
struggles, and demonstrating and extending God's kingdom by helping those in need