A. Some wrongfully stop with the indicative, declaring what God has done for us in Christ, while neglecting the imperatives of what God calls us to do.

B. What is the use of biblical imperatives (God’s law)?
   1. God’s law shows us our need for Christ who alone meets God’s standard and provides the righteousness we lack. *Gal 3:24; 2:16; Phil 3:9*

   2. God’s law also shows us how He desires His redeemed people to live. *1 Thess 4:1; Eph 5:10; John 14:15*

C. Biblical Examples
   1. Immediately after telling us to consider our identity in Christ, Paul exhorts us to take action against the lusts of the flesh. *Rom 6:12ff*

   2. Jesus tells us what we must do in order to abide in Him. *John 15:1-11*
      - Have His Word in ourselves. *John 15:3, 7*
      - Seek His glory in prayer. *John 15:7*
      - Obey His commandments. *John 15:10; 14:15; 1 John 2:6*
• Love the brethren.  *John 15:12-13, 17; 1John 2:10*

3. The typical pattern in many New Testament epistles is to begin with the indicative as the basis for the imperative.  *Rom 12:1ff; Eph 4:1ff; Col 3:1ff*

4. Our responsibility and God's work in us are placed side by side.  *Phil 2:12-13; 4:13*

5. The New Testament is filled with specific exhortations to actively fight sin and to faithfully and diligently pursue righteousness.
   - Put off sin (repent).  *Matt 5:29-30; Eph 4:17, 22, 25, 28, 29; Rom 6:12-13a*
   - Put on righteousness.  *Eph 4:24, 25, 28b, 29b; Rom 6:13b, 19c; 12:1ff*

6. It is not enough to merely hear God's word or even to agree with it. We must do what God commands.  *Matt 7:24-27; Jas 1:22*

D. Our motive for obedience is crucial.

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What Determines When and Whether Change Takes Place?

A. We experience a variety of outcomes in our counseling.
B. Sometimes change doesn’t take place in the life of a counselee because he/she is not regenerate.  
   John 15:2, 6; Phil 1:6; 1 John 2:3-4; Matt 7:16ff

C. Personal revival is like corporate revival: God sees fit to sovereignly work in powerful ways in the 
lives of His people at certain times.  John 3:8; 15:5; Ps 71:20; 85:6

D. God uses various means to accomplish change.
   1. His Word is a powerful agent for change.  2 Tim 3:16-17; Heb 4:12-13; Ps 119:25; John 15:7

   2. We should pray for God to revive us and our counselees.  Ps 119:25, 37, 40, 88, 107, 149, 154, 
      156, 159

   3. Sometimes the Lord brings circumstances into our lives to change our course.  Ps 119:67, 71; 
      Heb 12:4-11; John 15:2; Jas 1:2ff

   4. Sometimes God sends a Nathan to admonish us.  Rom 15:14; Gal 6:1-2; 2 Sam 12

Conclusion

A. God wants us to change and to bear fruit for His glory.  John 15:8

B. The gospel is the key to change.
   1. Understand your union with Christ.  Rom 6:11
2. Abide in Christ. *John 15:1ff*  


C. We are responsible to exert effort to change.