

God's View of You (Colossians 1:20-23)

Many have a mangled misunderstanding of how God views them. Some view themselves as having cut a deal with 'the Big Man upstairs', while others struggle to believe God has actually forgiven them. Today we discover God's view of you, according to the Scriptures.

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* All Scripture is from NET (New English Bible) unless otherwise noted.

Catch the Context

Last week: Jesus isn't just an exceptional human being, miracle worker, tremendous teacher, or one who came to teach us how to be loving.

Colossians 1:15-16 CSB ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For **everything was created by him**, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— **all things have been created through him and for him**.

✗ **Gnostic thinkers** Jesus was an angel or lower-tier God who only masqueraded as a man.

✗ **Unbelieving Jews** Jesus was just a man who made crazy claims that he was God.

✓ **Jesus is God, in skin** and that's why Paul could further write what we finished with last week.

Colossians 1:19-20 NET ¹⁹ For **God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in the Son**. ²⁰ and through him to **reconcile all things to himself by making peace through the blood of his cross**—through him, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

The **fullness of God** the Father lived in Jesus, just as Jesus taught.

John 14:10b-11 ^{10b} The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. **The Father who lives in me** does his works.

¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and **the Father is in me**. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.

Jesus' death on **the cross** can **reconcile** relationships between the Creator and all His creation.

✗ This is not a universal forgiveness of sins for all people. Many will be judged guilty and sent to the lake of fire (Mat 25:41, Lk 20:15, Mat 7:13).

✓ People who trust in Jesus and His death experience a restored relationship with God.

❖ **"making peace through the blood of his cross"** Why does one need to "make peace"? A person only makes peace with an enemy.

Colossians 1:21 ²¹ And **you were** at one time **strangers** and **enemies** in your minds as expressed through your evil deeds,

We either WERE or now ARE **enemies** of God (Rom. 5:10, Eph 2:3), who have stood against God in our **minds** and **evil deeds**.

❓ Have you ever thought about YOURSELF like THAT - **an ENEMY of God?**

We used to be, or currently still are enemies of God. Have you ever lied, stolen, or committed sexual sin? You have sinned against God and have been, or currently are...**an enemy of God**. Until we realize that we are enemies of God, we will never see our desperate need to be reconciled to God, Until you realize the depth of your sin, you will never truly appreciate the death of Jesus on the cross. **Continuing to live in sin proves you don't love Jesus** (John 14:15) and don't appreciate the awesome price He paid for you to be right with God.

Every person has at one time been an enemy of God, our **evil deeds** demonstrating that we were **strangers and enemies in our minds**.

John 3:36 The one who believes in the Son has eternal life. The one who rejects the Son will not see life, but God's wrath remains on him.

But now...

Colossians 1:22-23a ²² but now he has reconciled you by his physical body through death to present you **holy, without blemish, and blameless** before him—²³ if indeed you remain in the faith, established and firm, without shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard.

Jesus can **present** us to the Father as **holy, without blemish, and blameless!**

❖ **"holy"** God sees us as **holy** (same word translated "saints" in Col 1:2) - *set apart* for Him.

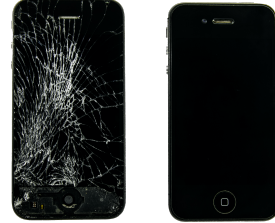
❖ **"without blemish"** Sacrificial animals given to God were to be without blemish, God sees us **without blemish**, able to serve as living sacrifices to give Him glory (Rom. 12:1)!

❖ **"blameless"** means there is no accusation against us could stick!

Based on the authority of Scripture, **what is God's View You?**

X Busted and broken unable to do what you were created to do OR

✓ clean & ready to do what you were created to do?



BIG QUESTION: Are You Livin' Forgiven?

If not, you only have 2 options:

- 1) **You aren't forgiven and free.** You haven't turned from your sin and trusted Jesus, so sin still has power over your life. You aren't forgiven and free.
 - 2) **You are forgiven, but you aren't acting like it.**
 - X Some are wallowing in the past.** You ARE forgiven and free, but you tell yourself you aren't.
 - X Some genuine Christians are living in sinful disobedience and can't find peace.**
- ❖ **"remain in the faith, established and firm, without shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard"**
It is an unbiblical idea that a person can make a commitment, get baptized, join a church, yet live like a non-Christian, and they are okay with God. That is FALSE! Read what Jesus says in the parable of the sower & seed (Mk 4), watch disciples of Jesus walk away from Him, and never follow Him again (Jn 6:66). Many will call Jesus "Lord" yet He will say, "I never knew you." (Mat 7:22-23) The book of Revelation is filled with the words, "To him who overcomes" (Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21). John the apostle writes these words,

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but **they did not really belong to us**, because if they had belonged to us, **they would have remained with us.** But they went out from us to demonstrate that all of them do not belong to us.

John MacArthur "Perseverance is the hallmark of the true saint."¹

Isn't that what we expect in marriage, where husband and wife persevere, to live like they actually believe they ARE married, to celebrate in the good times and struggle together through the tough times.

❓ *What would you say to a friend - a husband or wife who flirts with others or walks away from their marriage partner? You wouldn't say, "it's not that big of a deal." You should say, "You're either married or you're not! Quit saying you are married if you aren't going to live like it!"*

So too, those who claim Christ are to:

Colossians 1:23 ...remain in the faith, established and firm, without shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard. **This gospel has also been preached in all creation under heaven**, and I, Paul, have become its servant.

This is **the gospel** (good news) that has gone out to the world - Christ is over all, the One who created all, jumped into skin, lived a PURE life, died a BRUTAL death & arose - so that those who believe Him could be **reconciled** to God - **holy, without blemish, and blameless!**

❓ **What's God's View of You?** Does He see you as His child or His enemy, forgiven or still under His wrath? Answer that question with this one:

BIG QUESTION: Are You Livin' Forgiven?

¹ John F. MacArthur Jr., *Colossians, MacArthur New Testament Commentary* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1992), 66.

FEET2FAITH

1. **Memorize & marinate on Colossians 1:22-23a this week.** Take the time to feel the weight of these great gospel truths!
2. **Get in the Scriptures and seek Jesus daily.** Stop putting everything else in front of Him. Find a plan and make it a priority. Read a gospel or ask another believer to help you find a plan.
3. **Pray for at least 2 people** - 1 person in your family and 1 Christian friend - **that they would GROW in knowledge and obedience to God.**

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Have questions and need some help?...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Freddy & Joyce Howard (973-0047), Jere & Darlene Burnette (673-1888), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (673-1387), Jim & Derita Pinkard (229-834-4307), & Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282).

discussionquestions

These open-ended questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your Family, Friends, or Small Group.

1. Share what most challenged or surprised you from today's teaching.
2. **Read Col 1:19-21 and Rom 5:10.** Why did Jesus come to make peace? Have you ever thought about YOURSELF or any other friend or family member as an ENEMY of God? If so, how? If not, why not?
3. **Work on memorizing Colossians 1:22-23a together.** Then spend some time chewing on what that passage that really means.
4. How can answering today's BIG QUESTION: "Are you livin' forgiven?" - help you understand God's view of you?
5. **Read Col 1:23, Mark 4:1-20, Mat 7:22-23, Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 26.** Based on these passages, what would you tell a person who made a commitment, got baptized, joined a church, and yet lives like a non-Christian, saying they are okay with God?
6. Share what your plan is to read Scriptures this coming week or ask for some help on what to read.
7. Share other prayer needs and lift one another up right now.