

Lesson 4: The Operation of God

Introduction:

- **In Adam - everything is wrong with you -**
 1. **Condemnation** - Rom. 5:16, 18
 - a. Under Sin (Rom. 1:18-32; 3:23)
 - b. No R+ (Rom. 2:1-3:20)
 - c. Enemies of God (Rom. 5:10)
 2. **Abomination** - Titus 1:15-16
 - a. Servants of Sin (Rom. 6:20)
 - b. Dead to R+ (Rom. 6:20-21)
 - c. Followed Course of This World (Eph. 2:1-3)
 3. **Alienation** - Col. 1:21; Eph. 4:18
 - a. Gentiles in the Flesh (Eph. 2:11-12)
 - b. Belonging to Satan (Col. 1:13)
 - c. Good Citizens of Satan's Kingdom (Eph. 2:1-3)

- **In Christ - left heaven's glory to provide you heaven's pardon**
 1. **Justification** - Rom. 5:16, 18
 - a. Forgiven of all sins (Eph. 1:7; Col. 2:13)
 - b. Imputed with Christ's +R (Rom. 3:20-26)
 - c. Permanent Atonement (Rom. 5:1, 6-11)
 2. **Sanctification** - 1 Cor. 1:2, 30
 - a. Dead to Sin (Rom. 6:2)
 - b. Alive unto God (Rom. 6:11)
 - c. Sons of God (Rom. 8:14-15)
 3. **Exaltation** - Rom. 8:30; 2 The. 1:12
 - a. One New Man (Eph. 2:15)
 - b. Citizenship in Christ's Heavenly Kingdom (Eph. 2:19; Phil. 3:20; Col. 1:12-13; 2 Tim. 4:18)
 - c. Heavenly Vocation & Impact (Eph. 4:1; 3:9-11)

Preview:

- This all begs question how do we change our identity problem?
 - How can something that isn't fluid change?
 - How can something we cannot fix change?

Sermon:

- Example of surgeon fixing something that we cannot fix ourselves - something deeper

The Operation of God

- {Colossians 2:10-12}
 - "circumcision made without hands"
 - No physical procedure
 - No dress
 - No procedure
 - Can change your identity
 - Why?
 - Because no dress, no outward procedure can change your identity - those things cannot touch your soul, your spirit
 - Spiritual procedure
 - Procedure of the heart
 - Procedure of the mind
 - Procedure of the soul
 - "complete in Him"
 - All you need is in Him
- {Romans 6:1-11}
 - Baptism - a cleansing resulting in a sanctification unto a new identification
 - Destroying the body of sin
 - Man masks this body, alters the body, adds to the body
 - Man fulfills their lusts, build a reputation, of how they want to be known (identity)
 - Dead to sin - Alive to God
- {Galatians 3:26-28}
 - Colossians 3:10-11
 - "neither Jew nor Greek" - nationality, ethnicity class
 - Race, tribe
 - God made the nations diverse and beautiful
 - God made a separation between His people and the rest of the people
 - Not because they were better than others
 - Because they were worse than others
 - Ephesians 2 - broken down the middle wall of partition in Christ
 - Reconciled both in one
 - "neither bond nor free" - economic class
 - Superiors - management to non-management position
 - Slave or not
 - 1 Corinthians 7:18-24
 - "neither male nor female" - gender/sex class

- Scripture doesn't deny these distinctions, in fact, God instituted all of them as dualistic expressions of the Godhead.
- The main take away is being in Christ and no longer in Adam
 - These things that man uses to identify with were never to be intended to be used that way, but rather these things God instituted to reflect the duality of relationship.
 - Some can be changed, others some think can be changed, but cannot
 - Cannot change your nationality, ethnicity, race (God did not make races)
 - In some cases, your bond or free status can change
 - Cannot change whether your male or female although many attempt to do so

- {John 3:3-13}

Conclusion:

- What does it mean to be in Christ?