

King Over Our Conduct
Colossians 3:1-11
Sunday, June 28, 2020

Some of you might just stick - notes following
this sermon is for you.

Introduction

Read passage - not on screen, just listen

We have innate desire for growth & improvement

We have an inherent desire to "improve ourselves" because we are image bearers. We can't help it - we are drawn to be like Christ because we were made in his image. We desire to exude his character, we long to mirror his selflessness and compassion, even if we don't know who he is.

You often hear people say "I like Jesus but I can't stand the church"
This is because his character is compelling and admirable, and ours often is not.

This is one of the most well-known portions of Scripture in the New Testament.
It's a beautiful image - we take off the old and put on the new.
New shoes!!!

But the key to understanding this beautiful passage is understanding two very important distinctions in what is happening.
We need to see and receive what God has done for us,
and we need to let this empower and motivate our work in this process.

Underdeveloped sense of responsibility.
What is my job?
Who do I fit?

This can be summarized with the following statement, and these are the two main points of today's sermon:

God provides us with the position, but we pursue the practice.

God provides the position, the power, the ability to take off old self and put on new, but in order for us to rightfully engage with this process we need to engage and pursue our part in the journey.

This passage illustrates this paradox, and finding our place in it does a few things:

- ① We are free from the frustration and fruitlessness of trying to do work that only God can do.
- ② We are able to live in light of the right things, which empower a life lived for Christ.
- ③ We are able to devote ourselves more fully to the things we do have control over, which develop our peace and growth.

Real:

A good King takes care of things, so his ppl have what they need to do their duty
A bad King leaves too much up to his subjects
And many of us live our lives as if we are King, or there isn't a good one,
and we put our best w/energy for things that aren't in our control,
leaving the things that are in our control undervalued.

We need to behold King Jesus today

God Provides the Position

God's Work

Colossians 3:1a, 3-4, 11

“...you have been raised with Christ... For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory...

Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all...”

Restoration of things.
He has already talked about

- ways
- ① We were dead in our sin, and we have now through faith in Christ been risen to life – only God can do that.
 - ② Our life was exposed in sin but is now hidden with Christ in God – only God can do that.
 - ③ We were left in shame in our sin, but God bring us along in glory and perfection when he appears – only God can do that.
 - ④ We were separated by our unfounded and prejudiced views of one another, but Christ leveled the playing field – only God can do that.

These are things that we could never do on our own.

Our job is to fully receive them in gratitude and to rest in assurance once we have done that.

Like children who let their parents take care of things...

We also need to recognize the freedom we have in this

Freedom to live, now and eternally

Freedom to rest, hidden in the holiness and protection of Christ

Freedom to be unified in Christ's glory - hidden.

Freedom to see one another as fellow image bearers with dignify worth and value

This is the foundation, the position, the power that allows for all of the rest of this passage to take place.

God provided this spiritual reality.

But our experience tells us this is not a full reality yet in this world.

We Pursue the Practice

Colossians 3:1-2, 5-10

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth..."

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

But now you must put them all away: anger wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator."

- Most of us know we need to do these things
- deep down we may even want to
- but we don't
- Pay attention to Spirit's prompting

Many of us are too passive
Proactive stance

- ① Seek the things that are above → what are you pursuing, striving after?
Set your minds on things that are above, not on earthly → what occupies your mind?
"Seek first the kingdom..."
And all else will be added

- ② Put to death what is earthly → are you cozy with sin?
Put away all fleshly practices → don't put them away for another time, be done with them!
You walked in them, God's judgement is coming - you are responsible!

Live in new self - renewed knowledge

At one time, we put off old self with its practices and put on new self, being made more and more in image of God.
This is a picture of our identity change, not something that happens over and over again.

Rom 12
"Don't be conformed to
patterns of world,
Be transformed by
renewing of mind..."

- ① Admit the problems
- we all have them - acknowledge them
to God, to others
write them down

- ② Get the help you need

- ③ Do the things you know you need to do consistently as you can.
Pray for help
pursue the good
avoid the hindrances
Get to Christ,
who will provide the
strength you need
tomorrow.

There is no shame or condemnation
for those in Christ.

→ Jc Ryle
Picture of this King
Let this
King reign
in your heart
today