

Summary

Pastor Chris teaches from Ephesians 3:14-17 about the importance of bowing before God as King, not just knowing Him as Savior or Friend. He emphasizes that we should bow because of all God has done for us - blessing us, redeeming us, sealing us with the Holy Spirit, and transferring us from the kingdom of darkness into His kingdom. The message focuses on understanding our true identity as children of God and living according to the riches of His glory. Rather than chasing after signs and miracles, we should chase after God Himself and honor His presence, allowing His heavenly glory to overlap our earthly existence so that Christ may dwell permanently in our hearts.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You this morning with humble hearts, ready to bow before You as our King. We thank You for all You have done for us - for blessing us, redeeming us, and transferring us into Your kingdom. As we gather together in this small group, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us today. Help us to see You not just as Savior and Friend, but as the King who deserves our reverence and honor. Speak to us through Your Word and through each other. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one nickname you had growing up, and do you remember how you got it?

Key Verses

1. Ephesians 3:14-17
2. Colossians 1:13
3. Acts 17:28
4. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Questions

1. Pastor Chris mentioned different ways we relate to Jesus - as Lamb, Savior, Friend, Good Shepherd, and King. Which of these do you find easiest to connect with and why?
2. What does it mean to you that God has 'transferred' you from the kingdom of darkness into His kingdom? How should this change how we live?
3. The pastor shared about finding his true identity when God called him 'son.' What identities (good or bad) have you allowed to define you instead of your identity as God's child?
4. Why do you think Paul emphasizes bowing before God? What does the posture of bowing represent in our relationship with Him?

5. Pastor Chris talked about chasing God rather than chasing signs and miracles. What's the difference, and why is this distinction important?
6. What does it mean to 'honor the presence of the Lord' in our daily lives? How can we be more intentional about acknowledging His presence?
7. The message mentions that 'when heavenly glory overlaps the earthly, something has to yield.' What earthly things in your life might need to yield to God's authority?
8. How can we 'walk in a manner worthy of the Lord' in practical, everyday situations?

Life Application

This week, practice intentionally acknowledging God's presence throughout your day. Set reminders on your phone or choose specific moments (like before meals, when you wake up, or before important meetings) to pause and honor God as King. Take time to bow - either physically or in your heart - and remember your true identity as His child who has been transferred into His kingdom.

Key Takeaways

1. We should bow before God because of all He has done for us - blessing, redeeming, sealing us with His Spirit, and transferring us into His kingdom
2. Our true identity comes from being children of God, not from worldly labels or nicknames others give us
3. We should chase after God Himself rather than chasing after signs and miracles
4. There's a difference between knowing God is always present and intentionally walking in and honoring His presence
5. When God's heavenly glory overlaps our earthly existence, we must yield to His authority and allow Christ to dwell permanently in our hearts

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for this time of discussion and reflection. Help us to remember that You are not just our Savior and Friend, but our King who deserves our reverence and honor. Transform our hearts so that we live according to our true identity as Your children, transferred into Your kingdom. May we walk worthy of You in all we do this week, intentionally acknowledging Your presence and allowing Your glory to overlap our earthly lives. Strengthen us with power through Your Spirit in our inner being, so that Christ may dwell richly in our hearts. We bow before You now as King. In Your precious name, Amen.