



Sermon Notes:

Message:

Culture, Compromise, Christ

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Text Reference: Colossians 3:1-4 ESV

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%20%3A1-4&version=NIV>

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

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

Most people just wanted to make sense of their lives and find real meaning: a little Jesus, a little consumer escapism, a little Hollywood, a little nationalism, a little legalism.

Some ways of making sense of things, as good intentioned as they might be, have unintended consequences and even poor grounding when set next to the new life God gives in Christ.

The Church Founder: Tychicus (tich-i-cus)

Colossians 4:7

<https://biblehub.com/colossians/4-7.htm>

7 Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.

- Paul wrote the Colossian letter from prison.
- Paul had never visited the Church.

Culture

The customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group. How people maintain.

The set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, that encompasses, not only art and literature but lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs” - UNESCO

Culture in Colossae: modern day Turkey

The town was known for its Fusion of religious influences (syncretism), which included Jewish, Gnostic, and pagan influences that, in the first century AD, were described as an angel-cult.

Colossians 2:8, 16-18

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%202&version=ESV>

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.

17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,

Compromise

To adjust or settle by mutual concessions.

change opinion in order to agree:

Colossians 3:5-10 ESV

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%203&version=ESV>

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Christ

The Preeminence of Christ

We don't start somewhere else and get to Christ somehow; we don't begin with Christ to get somewhere else; we don't mix the best things about Christ into another foundation.

Colossians 1:15 - 20 ESV

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%201&version=ESV>

Jesus: The Creator of All Things

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Jesus: The New Man Prototype

17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

The Answer to the Pressure of Culture and Comprise

- Down-to-Earth-ism of Christ
- Heavenly Reality: Spiritual Reality vs Escapism
- Identify with Christ (Focus: The Lordship of Christ and Identification of the believer)

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Heavenly Reality: Spiritual Reality Vs Escapism

Other “philosophy” that influenced those in Colossae, involved some sort of escapism or focus on some sort of *communion with the heavenly realm.*

Paul draws attention not to escapism but to a *heavenly reality that has made itself known in human form.* This is down-to-earth-ism.

Set Your Focus: Holy Ambition

“Seek things that are above...Really means to set your minds on things that are above” (3:1–2).

1 John 4:17 TPT

<https://www.bible.com/bible/1849/1JN.4.17-18.TPT>

By living in God, love has been brought to its full expression in us so that we may fearlessly face the day of judgment, because all that Jesus now is, so are we in this world.

Christ’s Lordship and Identity of the Believer

we seek life according to Christ’s lordship not as a means to just get closer to God, but because now the identity of the believer’s life is found with Christ in God who came to us!

Galatians 2:19–20

<https://biblehub.com/galatians/2-20.htm>

I have been crucified with Christ; I no longer live, but Christ lives in me; and what I now live in the flesh, I live in faith in the son of God who loved me and gave himself over for me.

Lordship identity Holy Ambition

Transformation thought identification.

Transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2 KJV

<https://biblehub.com/romans/12-2.htm>

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Christ Likeness

Philippians 2:5-6

<https://biblehub.com/philippians/2-5.htm>

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Identification with the Lordship of Christ

- His Victory
- His Mastery
- His Lordship of All

The Jesus Identity

Isaiah 61:1-3 NIV

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2061&version=NIV>

1 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion