



Sermon Series: The Heart of Worship

To be used with Session 5: The Lifestyle of Worship

Sermon Title Possibilities: New Clothes, Worth-ship, Living Life to an Audience of One, Living Life on Purpose

Scripture: Colossian 3:1-5; 12-17

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “The Heart of Worship,” this sermon speaks to Christ being Lord over the lives of those who have surrendered their lives to Him. Our mind and will have been transformed, therefore we live this life with our spiritual glasses on. This transformation helps us see how we should walk and ultimately shows who we worship. Our minds are set to live this life for the next life. This sermon will speak to our lives being totally surrendered to Him.

Introduction:

John Newton was a captain of a slave ship and a man deep in sin when God saved him. He is known for writing one of the most popular hymns in Christian history, “Amazing Grace”. He writes about being blind to the things of God but now being able to see. Why? He said, “I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am.” His life was totally transformed because of God’s grace. He went from being a slave trader to being a pastor. God became Lord of his life not just a part of his life. Every day of Newton’s life was lived to an audience of one, God. This is exactly what Paul is teaching in Colossians 3. Because Jesus is Lord of our lives, our lives must reflect His worth in our lives. We live our lives to declare how much He is worth. This is a picture of true worship.

1. Focus your thoughts. (Colossians 3:1-5)

Paul begins in verse 1 by focusing on the mind of man. The context surrounding these verses is in Colossians 2:13-14, where Paul shows how the believer’s life is different. It is different because Christ paid the debt of our sin and has given us a new identity in Him. The death and resurrection of Christ changes everything about us and who we worship. Paul said in verse 1, “So if you have been raised with Christ.” That is if you have trusted Christ and are identified with His death and resurrection, then what you seek is different. Our desires have been changed. We worship the Creator, not the creature. Why? Paul answers this question in verse 3 when he said, “For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” The people of God no longer have control of their lives because they have died to self. Paul speaks to this truth in Galatians 2:20. We have been crucified with Christ. Our identity is in Christ, He is our life and as verse 5 says, “Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature.” We live this life to an audience of one, Christ. Our lives are to be lived daily to worship Him.

2. Fortify your attitude. (Colossians 3:12-15)

Paul continues to move to action those who have trusted Christ with their life. In verse 12 he said, “put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.” Here we see a visual

picture of a spiritual reality. The visual picture is one who has removed old clothes and has put on new clothes. Those who are in Christ have a new attitude towards life and how they live around others. They are to put on the new self which is “compassion, kindness, humility, and meekness, patience, and forgiveness” (vs. 13-14). These fruits of a holy lifestyle are not something that anyone can just wake up and do, but it is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. When these characteristics are seen, it is evidence that the Spirit is at work in the life of the one who is totally surrendered to Him. How is your attitude towards others? Are you bearing good fruit in this way? As you look away from self and look to the Savior who has forgiven you; you too can forgive others. Paul is not calling the people of God to accept sin in others, but he’s calling them to forgive the sins of others as they been forgiven. They are to love and display the peace from Christ toward others. We do not just put on this forgiveness, love, and peace towards others on Sunday morning. This is consistent in the everyday life of the believer; our entire life has been changed by His love.

3. Be faithful in your actions. (Colossians 3:16-17)

Paul said that the word of Christ that has been taught should dwell richly in the life of the believer. It is this word that dwells within the life of the believer that allows him to teach, admonish, and sing for the glory of Christ. This is to be done in the sanctuary and in the streets. The word of Christ that dwells in our hearts is the key to living a lifestyle of worship to Christ and to a lifestyle that reflects Christ. Everything that we do we do in the name of the Lord Jesus. Why? Because we have surrendered our lives to the lordship of Christ, which means that Christ is our life. We live this life for Christ so that God can get all the glory. Our actions are acclimated to this new life in Christ because it is his word that moves us to action.

Conclusion:

Paul’s primary point is for the people of God to reflect this new life that they have received in Christ towards others and to do it for God and his glory. Paul worshipped Christ with his life, and it is seen in how the word of Christ dwelled inside of him. The fruit of his life reflected Christ. The only way this happened is by Christ’s pursuit of him on the road to Damascus. This is when Paul experienced God’s amazing grace. The scales of his eyes were removed, and he could see. He went from persecuting Christians because of their message about Christ to preaching that same message about Christ. This is the picture of a lifestyle of worship of God and Him alone. It only happens when we surrender to Him. Do others see this lifestyle change in you? Do they see that you worship God and Him alone? If not, humble yourself and submit to the lordship of Christ today!

Author Bio

Quintell Hill is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Preaching from Clump Divinity School at Anderson University. He has served for 20 years in pastoral ministry and is the lead pastor of Multiply Community Church in Monroe, NC. He also serves as an African American Church Mobilization Strategist with the International Mission Board. He and his wife Christie have two daughters, Moriah and Kharis.