

What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?

Key Takeaways:

1. Your identity is already settled. The "scale" that matters has already been stepped on by Jesus. His perfect score has been permanently credited to your account. Your worth is not measured by performance, appearance, productivity, or approval.
2. Being raised with Christ requires putting things off and putting things on. The Christian life is not simply about stopping bad behavior. It is about actively replacing the old self with the character and attitude of Jesus -- compassion, kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness, and love.
3. The peace of Christ functions like a referee. God has installed something in the chest of every believer that calls out of bounds what does not align with the gospel. It is not a vague feeling of calm. It is an active, governing force in your relationships.
4. Your new clothes are meant to be worn at home. The character of Christ is not something you leave at church. It belongs in your marriage, your parenting, your workplace, and every space you inhabit the other six days of the week.

Discussion Questions:

1. In Colossians 3:1-4, Paul describes believers as having died with Christ, been raised with Christ, and now being hidden with Christ in God. This is the most secure place imaginable -- anything coming for you has to get through both Christ and God to reach you.
2. What does it mean to you personally that Christ is described not as someone who helps with your life, but as your life itself?
3. Your number on the spiritual scale "will never move." Do you live as though you believe that? What makes it hard to trust? How does a settled sense of identity change the way you interact with other people?
4. Read Colossians 3:5-11. Paul calls believers to put to death the sins of the old nature -- not manage them, not monitor them, but kill them. He also uses the image of taking off dirty clothing to describe things like anger, malice, slander, and dishonesty.
5. Read the account of King Saul leaving Agag alive in the basement in 1 Samuel 15. This pictures how we handle sin. Is there an area of your life where you have declared victory but quietly kept King Agag around?

6. Paul lists two categories of sin here -- more obvious moral failures and relational sins like anger, malice, and slander. Which category do you think gets less attention in your own life? Why? Why is it significant that Paul does not say to manage or reduce these things but to put them to death entirely?
7. Paul calls believers to clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness, and love. He then says to let the peace of Christ act as a referee and to let the word of Christ dwell richly among them. Every item on Paul's list only functions in relationship with other people. Which of these is most difficult for you to wear consistently around others?
8. The peace of Christ mentioned in Colossians 3:15 is a referee rather than a feeling. Think of a recent conflict or tense moment. Did you sense that referee at work? What happened?
9. Paul connects the word of Christ dwelling richly among believers with singing and gratitude. How does being corrected by Scripture and worshiping God connect in your own experience?
10. Read Colossians 3:18-4. Submission is being willing to yield yourself, to use your voice, to leverage every strength and opportunity you have for your husband's good. And love is being willing to yield yourself, use your voice, and leverage every strength and opportunity you have for the good of your wife. How does this definition challenge or reframe the way you think about your role in marriage?
11. 1 Peter 3:7 challenges husbands to know their wives deeply. Find out what stresses her, what makes her feel safe, what does she wish you noticed. For those who are married, how well do you actually know your spouse in this way? What is one thing you could do this week to grow in that knowledge?
12. Inconsistency in discipline is one of the primary ways parents exasperate their children. Where do you see inconsistency showing up in your home?
13. Character is built through failure and protecting children from all mistakes actually works against them. How do you find the balance between protection and allowing room to grow through difficulty?

14. Colossians 3:23 says to work wholeheartedly as though working for the Lord. What would change about your attitude or effort at work if you genuinely treated your job as service to Christ?
15. Even those with authority have a master in heaven. How does that reality shape the way you use whatever power or influence you have?

Practical Applications:

1. Identify your scale. Write down the thing you most often use to measure your worth or okayness. Bring it before God in prayer and ask him to replace that measure with the truth of what Christ has already secured for you.
2. Name your King Agag. Honestly identify one sin you have declared dealt with but have actually kept alive. Confess it to God and, if appropriate, to a trusted person in your group. Ask for accountability.
3. Put on one piece of new clothing intentionally. Pick one item from Paul's list -- compassion, kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness, or love -- and ask God each morning this week to help you wear it specifically in your most difficult relationship.
4. Let the referee work. Before your next conflict or tense conversation, pause and ask: Does what I am about to say or do align with the peace Christ has given me, or does it belong to who I used to be?
5. Take it home. Identify the one relationship -- spouse, child, coworker, parent -- where you are most likely to take off your new clothes and put the old ones back on. Pray specifically for that relationship every day this week.