



Jesus at the Center

Part Two ~ May 19, 2019

OPEN

The most obvious step we can take to make Jesus the center of our lives is to **ask Him**. The song “Jesus Be The Center” provides a great way of doing so.

*Jesus, be the centre, be my source, be my light, Jesus
Jesus, be the centre, be my hope, be my song, Jesus
Be the fire in my heart, be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live, Jesus, Jesus*

When Jesus saves us from sin, all of **who He is** impacts our lives. For Him to be the center of our lives we must come to terms with three amazing aspects of His supremacy. Through elaborate rituals and ceremonies the Colossian church became distracted from the glory and greatness of Jesus. Paul offered three Christological considerations to correct this.

DIG

*Jesus should be the center of our lives because all things find their **beginning** in Him*
Colossians 1:15-16

The first way Paul helped the Colossians return to the supremacy of Jesus was to emphasize His role as Creator (also, read carefully through Psalm 104).

- Who is Jesus? He is the exact likeness of God – v. 15
- What has Jesus done? He is the agent of Creation – v. 16
- Why has He done it? He’s not just originator but also the object of all – v. 16

Jesus made the invisible God visible and observable. How could this be? He, Himself, is God. And God’s plan is to display the truth of who He is in believers. When Jesus is the center of our lives we testify to His divinity.

*Jesus should be the center of our lives because all things find their **being** in Him*
Colossians 1:17-19

The supremacy of Jesus is also expressed by His role as the Sustainer. He is “before all things” – the primary Cause of all. In Him “all things hold together”. This happens in three spheres...

- Generally, in the natural world - v. 17
- Specifically, in the people of God - v. 18a
- Victoriously, in the resurrection - v. 18b

Read Romans 12 and I Corinthians 12 to see a fuller presentation of Jesus as Head of the Church, and His followers as members of His Body. What needs to be pruned from our lives or congregation so that are more fully focused and attentive to Jesus as our Head, Source, and Life?

*Jesus should be the center of our lives because all things find their **rebirth** in Him*
Colossians 1:20-23

If it wasn’t enough to see Jesus as Creator and Sustainer, He also Reconciler.

- Complete - “all things” - v. 20
- Christ-centered - “to Himself” - v. 20
- Costly - “blood of His cross” - v. 20; “through death” - v. 21
- Cosmic - “things on earth or things in heaven” - v. 20
- Cleansing - “holy and blameless” - v. 22
- Continuing - “established and steadfast” - v. 23

REFLECT

What do these amazing roles of Jesus mean for us to have Him at the center of our lives? Because of *who He is* and *what He has done* our lives must be different. If Jesus is qualified to be the Creator and Sustainer of the universe...and if He is the One who reconciles all things to Himself...then He is qualified to be the center of your life!

Colossians 1:23 concludes this passage with Paul stressing the *continuing* aspect our salvation – our **discipleship**. We must not be **moved** from the hope of the Gospel but **established** in Christ – which means being intentional.

Our unfolding Cornerstone disciple making strategy has a working model in which followers of Jesus “continue in faith” through four stages.

Relating Learning to love Jesus, and in response to His command to love one another, as we read in the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40). Loving relationships are a reflection of God’s love for believers in Christ Jesus (I John 4:9-11).

Serving Learning to live like Jesus in response to His pattern of selflessness and service. Not only did Jesus model service for us, but He told us that we should also serve one another (John 13:13-15). Serving like Jesus is a distinguishing mark of Christian discipleship.

Depending Learning to live like Jesus with a heart of dependence upon God. Only as the Holy Spirit empowers us will our ministry activities bear fruit (John 15:1-11). We express this dependence primarily through prayer, but it extends to having a disposition of depending on God.

Multiplying Learning to live like Jesus in response to His pattern of making disciples, as He command us in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). We are given the mandate to multiply followers of Jesus Christ who will win and intentionally disciple other followers, who in turn will make other disciples (II Timothy 2:2).

*“One must decide where he wants his ministry to count – in the momentary applause of popular recognition or in the reproduction of his life in a few chosen men who will carry on his work after he has gone. Really it is a question of which generation we are living for.” (Robert Coleman, **The Master Plan of Evangelism**, Revell, 1964, 37)*