

Connect Service Notes

Living Well: Kingdom Principles for a Flourishing Life (Part 3) – Remember who you are in Christ

KTLC | 2pm 20 September

Key Scripture: Colossians 2:8-15 (NB 11-13)

"¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses..."
Colossians 2:11-13 (NRSVA)

Summary

Our culture is obsessed with identity. We are constantly being told to discover ourselves, define ourselves, and express ourselves. But Paul reminds us that our true identity is not found by looking inward. It is found by understanding who we are in Christ. One of the most important phrases in the New Testament is "in Christ." Paul repeatedly teaches that everything God has done for us comes through our union with Jesus. We are forgiven in Christ, made alive in Christ, accepted in Christ, and given purpose in Christ.

1. In Christ, You Have a New Identity

Paul says that God has performed a spiritual circumcision, cutting away the old life and giving us a new identity (v.11). This means our identity is no longer defined by: Our past mistakes; Our failures; What others think of us; Our achievements; Our social media image. As followers of Jesus, our deepest identity is that we belong to Him. We are sons and daughters of God. Living well starts by remembering who we are in Christ rather than allowing the world to define us.

2. In Christ, You Have a New Life

Paul says we were buried with Christ and raised with Christ (v.12). Christianity is not merely trying to be a better person. It is receiving the resurrection life of Jesus. Through faith, the old life has passed away and a new life has begun. This means: We do not live from shame but from grace; We do not fight for victory but from victory; We do not rely on our own strength but on the power of Christ within us. The Christian life is not self-improvement. It is transformation through our relationship with Jesus.

3. In Christ, You Have a New Standing Before God

Before Christ we were spiritually dead, but God made us alive and forgave all our sins (v.13). Notice the emphasis on God's work: God made us alive; God forgave us; God saved us. Because of Jesus, we do not need to earn God's approval. We already have it. We stand before God forgiven, accepted, and loved.

Conclusion

Living well is not about trying harder to become somebody. It is about remembering who you already are in Jesus. In Christ: You have a new identity; You have a new life; You have a new standing before God. When you know who you are in Christ, you can live with confidence, purpose, and freedom.

Discussion Questions

1. **Identity;** What are some things young adults today commonly use to define their identity? How does being "in Christ" challenge or reshape those definitions?
2. **New Life;** Paul says we have been raised with Christ. What does resurrection life look like in everyday situations such as university, work, friendships, and social media?
3. **Acceptance;** Many people struggle with feeling they are never enough. How does knowing that you are fully accepted and forgiven in Christ change the way you view yourself and others?
4. **Application;** Of the three truths from Colossians 2:11-13 (new identity, new life, new standing), which one do you most need to remember right now, and why?