

Changed From the Inside Out  
Colossians 3:1-14

- I. God is in the process of renewing his image in us (Colossians 3:9-10).
- A. Genesis tells us that God made us in his image.
1. We heard a great sermon on that at the Converge conference.
  2. The word used for "image" in Genesis 1, is also used for idol.
    - (a) God commanded his people not to worship idols.
  3. Idol worship seems strange to us.
    - (a) Why would anyone worship a little status?
    - (b) That is not really how ancient people saw it, though.
    - (c) The status was seen as a physical manifestation of a spirit.
  4. Idolatry is wrong for 2 reasons.
    - (a) The only spirit we are to worship is the Living God.
    - (b) God said don't make images of me. Don't worship images.
- B. In the New Testament, the equivalent to "idol" is eikon (Greek).
1. When it speaks about God's "image" in people it uses "eikon."
  2. There is one image or eikon we are called to worship (Colossians 1:15).
    - (a) Why does it mention that God is invisible?
    - (b) Jesus is the perfect image of the Father (who is spirit).
    - (c) Jesus is the visible representation of God.
  3. As a bodily incarnation of God, Jesus lives out who God is.
    - (a) Jesus' character is the character of God (no sin, holy, etc.)
    - (b) God's character is displayed in the fruit of the spirit in Jesus.
    - (c) So, you want to see what God is like? Look at Jesus!
- C. We are called to be the physical manifestation of God.
1. It's not that we look like God physically (God is spirit).
  2. It's that we are to look like him in how we live.
  3. It's that our character is to increasingly reflect God's character.
- II. Transformation is an inside-out process.
- A. Religion tries to redeem oneself by reforming behavior (outside).
1. Without Christ we can change or control some behavior.
  2. But we haven't addressed the core issue, a fallen nature.
    - (a) Only God can raise us to a new life.
    - (b) He only does that when we place our trust in Jesus.
  3. That's why Jesus called the religious leaders "white-washed tombs".

- B. Belief and conversion must happen before transformation.
1. "you died and your life is now hidden with Christ."
    - (a) Your old nature died on the cross when you trusted Christ.
    - (b) You were baptized by the Spirit into Christ.
    - (c) The old you was buried with Christ. The new you rose.
    - (d) Now, in your spirit (internal), you are a new creation.
  2. "Since you have been raised with Christ" live differently!
    - (a) Set your hearts and minds on things above.
    - (b) Focus on what is now true about you.
    - (c) You are deeply loved, forgiven, accepted.
    - (d) God is with you and for you! He wants good for you!
  3. Choose to live out of your new nature.
    - (a) Put to death your old fallen ways (Colossians 3:5-6).
    - (b) You used to walk in those ways (Colossians 3:7).
    - (c) Now, rid yourselves of your old attitudes (Col. 3:8).
  4. Replace your old ways with Jesus' way (Colossians 3:12-14)
  5. What's the motivation to do this?
    - (a) Christ! "Christ, who is your life" -verse 4
    - (b) "Christ is all, and is in all" -verse 11

III. This sounds great in theory! How do we do it?

- A. Conviction is about faith, trusting in truth.
1. A conviction is a strong belief.
  2. "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind." -Romans 12
    - (a) "Set your minds on things above..."
  3. Our mind is renewed as it is aligned with truth (see verse 10)
- B. Desire is about the heart.
1. "Set your hearts (affections) on things above"
  2. "Christ, who is your life" (your life now).
    - (a) "You will appear with him in glory" (your life forever).
  3. Your desire will follow your convictions.
- C. Will is about choice.
1. Your choices will follow your convictions and desires.
  2. We need to fight for this life God wants for us!
    - (a) We need to have grit, tenacity.
  3. Paul's language is strong: "put to death", "rid yourselves"
    - (a) This is not passive. This is fighting for what is good!
    - (b) This is "no compromise" language!
  4. We have the power to choose through faith and the Spirit.
- D. A recent experience.