

Not Like That, Like This

Introduction

Have you ever been doing something and had someone come up to you and say, “Don’t do it like that, do it like this.” Me working for Jeff, weeding. Playing trumpet at UW for Cummings. Me and my little car.

Has anyone ever said that to you about your relationship with Jesus? That can be as tough for the one saying it as it is for the one who hears it. Regardless of the tact or motivation of the one saying it, we need to take the time to take it before the Lord and ask Him to show us what to do with it. Are there parts of your walk with Jesus where you need to not do it like that, but like this, and you aren’t aware of it?

Ingression

This is what Paul is telling the Colossian believers in chapter 3 of this letter. Systemic Christianity means that we are supposed to experience freedom from the flesh, and life in the image of Jesus. They were doing it backwards and experiencing life in the flesh and freedom from Jesus. Paul is going to give them, and us, some commands to prevent that from happening.

Inspiration

Review Systemic Christianity

Good Start - Personally, spiritually. Need reminders.

Dedicated to the Task - Paul and others were in chains for the gospel, but with joy because of it’s fruit in them. Should motivate us. Purpose - [2:6-7](#).

Trying to dig a hole full. Completeness, freedom, peace in Jesus alone.

Read through [3:1-11](#) together.

Ingression

Systemic Christianity means that we are supposed to experience freedom from the flesh, and life in the image of Jesus. How do we do that? How do we have that? By obeying these commands.

Keep focusing on Jesus, not on things on/of the earth. [3:1-4](#)

Ideation

Instruction, Illustration

Remember what it is that these believers were focused on fighting the flesh reaching for Heaven. Good goals, bad methods. Paul is going to straighten the out with some contrast.

3:1 If then you were raised with Christ - implied "and you were" see 2:20. These are the practical essence of the Gospel. seek - present active imperative, keep on seeking. Strive after like you lost keys and you need to drive somewhere.

3:2 set your mind on - again present active imperative, keep your mind set on. When you set your mind to a project to carry it out. Keep on seeking, keep your mind set on what? Parallelism. those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God, not on earthly things. Why?

These are nice Christian catch-phrases for when people are down or need guidance, and they generally apply. But what did Paul mean when he said them to these people? Gnostics Greeks and legalistic Judaizers. Their minds were set on Heaven as the goal, but they were looking to neglect of the flesh and rules to get them there. Their minds were set on earthly things. Many systems like that today, take Catholicism. Elements of both throughout it's history. Self flagellation, even crucifixion, so many hail Marys or our fathers, do good works, not bad ones, and maybe you will make it to Heaven.

[3][Catholic] Church teaching is that I do not know at any given moment what my eternal future will be. I can hope, pray, do my very best but I still do not know. Pope John Paul does not know absolutely that he will go to heaven, nor does Mother Theresa. (Cardinal O'Connor, New York Times interview, 02/01/90)

So sad and misses the point entirely! How many millions of people are living like this? While looking to address the indulgence of the flesh, they were using fleshly solutions. They were seeking Heaven as a destination, which we should, but they also should have been seeking it for the solution to their problem. This is why Paul says this. Reread 3:1-2.

3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God - crypto, perfect passive. Our existence has been encrypted with Christ in God because we died and were made alive with Him. The point of encryption is to hide one thing inside something else so that they are indistinguishable. It also means that the thing hidden is protected by that in which it is hidden. Our life comes from the fact that we have been encoded in His. What does it mean to be in Christ? This is what it means. [4]John 17:20-23, 2 Cor. 5:17.

3:4 This is what they were after. This is the only way for that to happen.

Implementation

Are you looking to your own actions, abilities, or intentions on earth to save you from your flesh? Are you setting your mind on things above only as a destination and not as the source of the means to save you?

We have died and been raised with Jesus by the power of God. Our life, our existence is hidden in, encrypted in, protected in, and indistinguishable from Jesus.

Keep your focus on Jesus and you will experience freedom from the flesh and life in His image. Don't do it like that, do it like this.

Interconnection

The next command Paul gives to help experience this freedom and life is...

Put to death your parts that thrive on the earth, that once ruled your life. 3:5-7

Ideation

Instruction, Illustration

3:5 put to death - imperative, deprive of life and power/energy. **your members** - you parts, fig. like members of a church/body. What are these parts that thrive on the earth? More parallelism. Couplets. **fornication, uncleanness** - any sexual sin, broadened out to any activity that makes one dirty. **passion, evil desire** - lust, wanting something so bad that it causes anguish, broadened out to a selfish longing. **covetousness** - greediness, wanting what you don't have. The previous members could be encapsulated in this one.

Paul then points out that these are all examples of **idolatry** - not isolated to covetousness. **Giving credit to or seeking fulfillment from something other than God**. Worshipping something other than God isn't simply singing or praying to some other form of deity. Read def. again. It's as broad as that.

3:6 wrath - anger motivated by grief because wrong had been done against them. **God's wrath isn't just Him mad at the world, it's motivated by grief because of what the world, His creation, has become by it's own doing. Like ppl felt wrath on 9/11**. Against who? sons of **disobedience** - Been told what to do, chosen not to do it in either doing nothing, or something else.

3:7 - In other words, You used to do these things as a part of your living/being/doing when the world was the place where your life was. But their lives aren't in the world anymore, are there? Where is it? Hidden in Jesus. **[6]1 Corinthians 6:9-11**. These things should be a past tense description.

Implementation

Is anyone here not guilty of any of these things? Anyone on the planet ever? Do we need 10 commandments, let alone 613? What are we commanded to do about it? Put the parts to death. **Paul wouldn't command it if it weren't possible to do IN HIM. One way to put something to death is to starve it. Two dogs thing.**

Do you let these things live in your life? Do you feed them? Stop it! Feed the things of the Spirit. Give all credit to and seek fulfillment from God alone.

Put to death your parts that thrive on the earth, that once ruled your life, and you will experience freedom from the flesh and life in His image. Don't do it like that, do it like this.

Interconnection

The next command Paul gives to help experience this freedom and life is...

Strip away the kind of speaking that reflects the old man who has himself been stripped away. 3:8-9

Ideation

Instruction, Illustration

3:8 put off - imperative, like clothing, strip off. Seen this before. Who puts this off? We do. **Walking with Jesus isn't like life at a spa, it's like life in a gym.** **out of your mouth** - this is in reference to the whole list, not just the last item. **anger** - ongoing words spoken out of grief. **Guy at DMV.** **wrath** - explosive outbursts of anger. **malice** - negativity about everyone and everything. **blasphemy** - worst kind of slander and evil speaking, wounding someone's rep with your words, be it people or God. **filthy language** - both the language used and the substance of what is being spoken. **The ongoing presence of this is a sign that the old man is still in control. Expect it from the world, not from Jesus people.**

3:9 do not lie - imperative, speak falsely, deceptively. **Who is Paul speaking to? Believers! Really? Christians lie to each other all the time for the same reasons people in the world lie. Deception, impressions, contention.** **since you have put off the old man with his deeds** -the individual acts as well as the habitual patterns. **Again, to continue to do so is a sign that the old man is still in control.**

Implementation

What does your mouth say about you? Who is in control, the old man or the new man? Does your new life and your new citizenship include a new language? It should. Not a question of self-denial or rules, but fruit. Strip this stuff away and replace with things from the new man.

Strip away the kind of speaking that reflects the old man who has himself been stripped away, and you will experience freedom from the flesh and life in His image. Don't do it like that, do it like this.

Interconnection

The last command Paul gives to help experience this freedom and life isn't really a command so much as it is a reality.

Pay attention to the new man you have put on who is being renewed into the image of Jesus. 3:10-11

Ideation

Instruction, Illustration

3:10 put on the new man - again like clothing, put on or assume a new character. A new uniform. The problem is we sometimes try to put on the old one on top of the new one. How mobile and comfortable are we then? [being] renewed - present, passive. ongoing process. moral renewal in contrast to the above. restored, restoration. Tarnex?

in knowledge (I know by experience how to ride a bike) according to the image of Him who created him (the new man) - The world wants to create us in its image. We have a knowledge base of experience that comes from being shaped according to the world. When we put on the new man we experience the process of being renewed in getting a new knowledge base of experience that come from being shaped according to Jesus' image. He created us and recreated us. Most things wear out with the using. This is not the case for those in Jesus. We get renewed. Image struck on a coin slug is a one-time example. This renewal is ongoing.

3:11 Go through the list and highlight as led. The application of this will become more clear in the next section. But the point is that since we are all in Him and being renewed into the same image, The distinctions that would divide us in the the world are erased, Christ is all, and in all. We have a new identity. In the OT and NT, God is in the business of giving people a new identity.

Implementation

What is your identity? Which uniform are you wearing? With each day your are being renewed by your experiences into either the world's image, or Jesus' image. Which is it? There is only life in one of them.

Pay attention to the new man you have put on who is being renewed into the image of Jesus, and you will experience freedom from the flesh and life in His image. Don't do it like that, do it like this.

Interconnection

The last command Paul gives to help experience this freedom and life isn't really a command so much as it is a reality.

Imploration

Paul pointed out to the Colossian believers that their focus had been on the right problem but they were pursuing the wrong solutions. This was resulting in ungodly behavior, not understanding who they were in Jesus, what they were in the world, and their wrong relationships with one another.

Systemic Christianity means that we are supposed to experience freedom from the flesh, and life in the image of Jesus. How?

- **Keep focusing on Jesus, not on things on/of the earth.**
- **Put to death your parts that thrive on the earth, that once ruled your life.**
- **Strip away the kind of speaking that reflects the old man that has himself been stripped away.**
- **Pay attention to the new man you have put on who is being renewed into the image of Jesus.**

What does this look like? Look at Jesus. One way to summarize all that Jesus said and all that Jesus did is, don't do it like that. Do it like this. Jesus came and did it so that we could do it too. It begins with your death and being made alive with Jesus. What does this look like today? Stay tuned for next week.