



PART 4: THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE

Sermon Notes

Text: Colossians 1:15-23

Intro:

God, Humanity and the world are to be understood through Jesus.

1. God: Jesus makes the invisible God visible

Colossians 1:15

Genesis 1:27-28 - humanity was made in the image of God

Sin is not defined merely as doing something morally wrong. Sin is defined as abandoning the purpose for which God created us.

Colossians 1:19-20

How do we understand God through Jesus?

If you want to know what God is like, take a look at Jesus

2. Humanity: Jesus is the true human being

Sin has made us less than human

Colossians 1:15, 18 - Jesus is the supreme human being

In heaven we become fully human. In hell we lose our humanity forever.

How do we understand humanity through Jesus?

Every human being has infinite intrinsic value.

“Remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations.” ~**C.S. Lewis**

3. The World: Jesus is the Father's agent in creation and redemption

Colossians 1:16, 20

Colossians 1 connects with the wisdom of God in Prov. 8 & Genesis 1 (see also 1 Corinthians 1:24).

Proverbs 9:10

How do we understand the world through Jesus?

God created the world and said it was good. Even though it has been corrupted, he hasn't given up on it. Through Jesus God is reconciling the whole world to himself. And we are called to join him in loving and wisely stewarding creation.

Conclusion:

Colossians 1:21-23

Matthew 22 - the question of paying taxes

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Consider the use of images (logos) by local companies. What are they trying to represent? How does a logo extend a message?
2. What was God thinking when he made humans as his image bearers (Genesis 1:27-28)? In what ways have we failed? How can we best represent him?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read John 14:5-11. There are dozens of claims in the New Testament that Jesus is God in the flesh (see Col. 1:15, 19). Jesus makes the claim himself in John 14:9. He is the exact representation of God (Heb. 1:3). What does this mean for those who want to know what God is like? Does Jesus' life and teachings contradict any modern views of the nature of God?
2. Read C.S. Lewis' quote under the second sermon point. If humans are made in God's image, and if Lewis was right, how does that affect how we treat one another?
 - Also read James 3:9-10 for another practical application of how to (not) treat an image bearer.
3. Read Matthew 22:15-22. What was the questioner trying to do? Why was Jesus' response so powerful? Answer the un-asked question that hangs at the end of this story: "What belongs to God?"

Application:

1. What belongs to God? Are you giving God what is his?

Prayer:

1. Pray for our city to be reconciled to God (Colossians 1:21-22)
2. Other Requests
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