

The Good Life Part 2: Lose it.

Colossians 2:11-15

INTRO

Want good life...

Things we try to improve lives with- money, stuff, relationships...

We've all tried to find the Good Life in our own unique and useless ways

ME- Money, rock star, perfect job

When doesn't work try to numb/distract from the desire... addictions/entertainment/politics- escape into other world.

Many try religion... makes worse... end up exhausted, guilty, and/or bored.

No matter what we try...

If we're honest... Good life? How? I've got all this baggage that keeps following me around... no matter what success, money, relationships, etc... still have this weight... am I enough, doing enough, real me not good... nothing seems to work

And I think that's the thing that keeps most people from really experiencing the life they were made for... the life Jesus came to give.

B/c

The Good life isn't about improving... it's about removing.

GOD (Col. 2:11-15)

Paul to church in Colossae

Writing to JF's- Were being told, "Jesus is cool and all, but you need to add more to really get it."

V. 11 *When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision--the cutting away of your sinful nature.*

Sinful nature- Where biblical writings differ from many other worldviews...

Core belief- Every human is predisposed to selfishness/sin.

Ex. Toddlers

And we can't do anything about it.

Created in the image of God,s but that image was marred/stained/distorted by sin... part of universal human experience now...

We've all experienced it- **Romans 7:18-19**

Why we find it so difficult to really experience the Good Life...

No matter what we have, who we are, what we've accomplished we still have this sinful nature trying to control us and every day we add more and more baggage created by our own selfishness.

Sin prevents us from fully experiencing the Good Life

And Paul is saying- What we can't do, get rid of this sinful nature, Jesus came and did for us... cut it away.

But it's even better...

V. 12 *For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.*

When someone decides to follow Jesus, he doesn't just cut away the old nature... he gives us a new nature, a new identity, a new life... that whole born again thing you might have heard about.

Losing our old life is the the only way to find the Good Life

Baptism- Act doesn't bring new life... but a physical/public demonstration that the old you has died... and you have now begun a new life in Jesus.

You have transferred your trust for the Good Life from yourself (what you can do, get, become) to Jesus and what he has done and will do.

Get baptised

Starting to get it? Paul clarifies more...

V. 13 *You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.*

Biblical writings portray God as seeing humanity in two types of people...

- Spiritually dead... dead in their sinful nature... still carrying baggage of sin
- Spiritually alive... those who have trusted Jesus and been given new/true life, free/forgiven

V. 14 *He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.*

When you accept Jesus' payment/forgiveness... the old you dies... and you are given a completely new identity.

Your identity is not not your past!

It's who you are in Jesus- a new free person. A child of God (**John 1:12**)

You transfer from those who are dead to those who are alive... forever.

You are FREE- Free from sin, free to be your true self, free bring this freedom to others..

Free to truly live the Good Life we all are looking for...

The Good Life- Experiencing the freedom of being completely loved and accepted by God

Yeah but, I still have the baggage... guilt...

V. 15 *In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.*

Devil's best weapons- guilt, shame

Jesus' resurrection disarmed him... those no longer have power over you.

What power does guilt have when you are fully forgiven? Where is shame when it isn't who you are anymore?

Are you seeing how removing your old life (sinful nature dying) is the path to the life you've always wanted?

How simply attempting to improve your own life will never let you fully find the Good Life you long for?

YOU:

How do I experience the new life Jesus offers?

Accept it: Gospel--- removes sin as far as east and west.

Tell us about it... (Kyler)

If you have questions, ask us about them, we welcome questions and will walk with you through them, we would LOVE to be on this journey with you, just let us know.

Enjoy it

Remembering who you are...

Read Romans 8:1-2

Fight Back- Next time hear whispers- "You're not good enough, sinner, spoiled, useless, disappointing..."
Say- "That person is dead... Through Jesus I'm something new- I'm free, cherished, loved, accepted, victorious."

Share it: Acts of love (ask yourself "what does love look like?") and words. Don't need all the answers or perfect words... you have your experience... share your story.

The Good Life- Accept it, Enjoy it, Share it

The Good Life is found by accepting a New Life

Questions

1. How have you seen God working in your life this week?
2. What stood out, challenged, encouraged, or bothered you in this week's message and/or passage?
3. Read Romans 8:1-2. What does this mean for you and for Jesus-followers as a group in living the "good life"? What would it be like to have these two sentences be part of your daily thinking?
4. What barriers/challenges/questions do you have in living out the "good life" this week? How can your group pray for you in this?