

INTRODUCTION

1. Review - Cross quality of discipleship & our union w/ Jesus in His death & resurrection.

1st: The Need for Balance Between Creation and the New Creation

1. The Xn life is a form of death - Col 3:3-4.
 - i. v5 yet we live in this *earthly body* - death is in rln to *immorality, impurity, passions, evil desire, & greed wh/ = idolatry*.
 - ii. Xnty is not a suicide cult. Cleansed of idolatry [Ezek 36:25-27]. We become the agents by wh/ the HS sanctifies us.
2. Xns easily lose balance - God is not at war w/ creation, but w/ sin.
3. 2T 4:1-8 - Satan distorts good creation & confuses re: our humanity. Xn receives good creation w/ gratitude.
 - i. v6-8 Tim is to help Xns get perspective on life in this age.
 - ii. *worldly* [godless, profane] *fables* - devalue or overvalue this life
 - iii. *discipline* - yes, *bodily & in godliness*. Balance.

2nd: The Cross Quality of the Christian Life

1. Creation ordinances: sexuality, marriage, family; labor & rest: humanity.
 - i. What is God's plan for this world? Rom 8.
 - ii. We implement this plan - elevate all into redemptive purposes.
2. Cross is placed at center of every relationship & endeavor.
3. **The inner life:**
 - i. R 12:1-3
 - ii. Eph 4:20-24

4. Marriage & family:

- i. Eph 5:1-2 [1 Jn 4:10]. The love of the cross issues into the life of the resurrection.
- ii. Husb: Eph 5:25
- iii. Wives: 1 Pt 3:1 *in the same way* => 2:21-24
- iv. Children: Col 3:18-21

5. Society/culture - Col 3:22-4:1 workplace: employee & employer. D.A. Carson *Christ & Culture Revisited* [2008] - last chpt: "On Disputed Agendas, Frustrated Utopias, & Ongoing Tensions" - p227-228.**6. Brethren:** 1Jn 3:16-17**7. Every endeavor:** *denying ungodliness & worldly desires* (Tit 2:12).**Applic #1: Xn - Look for the Way of the Cross and Then Take It.**

1. Jn 12:26a - Jesus stands in our situation & summon us to follow Him.
2. Keep eye on Christ - world will distract & dull. Uproot weeds.
3. See way of cross & decidedly go in that way.

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Applic #2: Unbeliever - Your Biggest Hindrance to Faith is Your Self.

1. Lk 14:25-33 not add Jesus to your life - abandon your life to live life of obedience to Jesus.
2. It is better to love Jesus than to love yourself.
3. You are going to die. Why not get it over with now? Deny self & come by faith to Jesus as Savior & Lord. Can you hear Him? *Follow Me!*