

Raised with Christ

|| A series through Colossians

Jesus Makes A Way

Sermon Synopsis: Jesus makes a way to God by dying on our behalf.

Colossians 1:21-23 (ESV)

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

illust: "The Righteous Mind" by Jonathan Haidt.¹

- In your brain, signal must travel thru Limbic system before arriving at prefrontal cortex.
- Meaning, every thought you have is processed through emotion before rationality.
- That's why it's so hard to have an open discussion with someone about something you feel strongly about. **There's something in the way!** (namely, your feelings)
- Similarly, Paul says that when it comes to our connection to God:

There's something in the way (between us and God)

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds (Colossians 1:21)

Our inner orientation is going in a different direction from God.²

We don't have the ability to think rightly.

Therefore, we are incompatible with the very source of life (God) that we were made for!

Ikea furniture—you know you need that piece, but it doesn't fit. And the tool doesn't help!

Jesus makes a way to God

he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him (Colossians 1:22)

Christ redirect us back to God—by his death.

How is someone's death a good thing? Normally it isn't. But Christ is both God/man.³

- His death is **Vicarious** (he dies *for our* sin). Here's the result...

- **Forgiveness**

Colossians 1:14 (ESV)

in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

This is good news when there is something between you and another that creates *hostility*.

· **Family**

Colossians 1:13 (ESV)

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son

This is good news when there is something in you that creates *isolation*.

· **Freedom**

he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, **in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him** (Colossians 1:22)

This is good news when there is something over you that creates *helplessness*.

So how does Christ's death defeat the power of sin?

Vicariously. When we are in Christ by faith, all the results of his death affect us.

Romans 6:7-11 (NLT)

For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

*Jesus makes a way where there is no way

We must walk along the way

if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. (Colossians 1:23)

We must continue in the "hope of the gospel." Which is...

- **Inspiring** (his death provides hope—⁴fill your mind with him)
- **Effective** (his death breaks the power of sin—depend on him)
- **Illustrative** (his death is an illustration for us—walk with him as he walked)⁵

Take the Lord's Supper

Christianity is an embodied faith.

Communion is an embodied experience. (real food/drink)

Let this remind you that Christ's finished work on the cross touches reality.

Matthew 26:26-28 (NIV)

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

In Him, you are forgiven. You are family. You are set free.

¹ Jonathan Haidt. *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided By Politics and Religion*. (Vintage Books, 2012).

² Douglas J. Moo. *The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon*. (PNTC; Eerdmans, 2008). 140.
Scot McKnight. *The Letter to the Colossians*. (NICNT; Eerdmans, 2018). 172

³ N.T. Wright. *Colossians and Philemon*. (TNTC; Intersity Press, 1986). 86

⁴ That dependence must first occur through a change of mind, which was formerly hostile to God. As David W. Pao says, “Discipleship is therefore understood as no less than the transformation of the mind, and only through such transformation can the will of God be discerned (Rom 12:2).” *Colossians and Philemon*. (ECNT; Zondervan, 2012). 117. It’s at this point that one can authentically and truly *depend* on God, since they are no longer hostile i mind to Him, and see their utter need for Him.

⁵ As Wright comments, “Those who are members of Jesus’ ‘body’ thus find their sin already condemned in him, and themselves reconciled to God. Jesus has risen from the dead, as the first of a large family whose sins, having done their worst in producing his death, are left behind in his life beyond death.” *Colossians and Philemon*. 86