

The Freedom of Christ

Col 3:5-11

Eugene Kwon



Background

In his 1977 album, "The Rambler", legendary singer-songwriter Johnny Cash criticized a certain attitude he witnessed in the Church: "You're shining your light and shine it you should / But you're so heavenly minded, you're no earthly good". Perhaps we understand his point -- but is it true? Is it possible to be "so heavenly minded" that we become "no earthly good"? Join us this Sunday as we see how being "heavenly minded" can actually give us the freedom to become who we were always meant to be -- and to be truly good for the world.

Sermon Text: Col 3:1-2 (ESV)

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. What stands out to you the most from this sermon?

2. Sunday questions

- a. Eugene rooted his sermon in John 8:31-32, *“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* How are you “abiding” in his word these days?
- b. When you read commands in Scripture, how do you typically respond in the moment? Do you cringe under the weight of them or do you typically welcome them as good news?
- c. Eugene categorized the lists of sins in this text (all lists have five items). He connected each list to a lie. The three lies are:
 - I am unloved.
 - I am unsafe.
 - I am unknown.
 - If you are willing, can you express which lie you struggle with the most?
- d. Eugene then connected each lie to a truth of Christ. Here are the three truths:
 - You are the Beloved.
 - You are secured in Christ.
 - You are fully known by God.
 - Which truth speaks most to you today?
- e. Eugene ended by reminding us of the importance of participating in the church community because we can help each other push back against the lies from the outside world. Do you feel supported in this way at PBCC? Why or why not?
- f. Will you consider helping teach the PBCC children the truths of Christ?