

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups.

March 4th 2007

Focus: SET ALL FREE

Theme: Christ is in All



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

Colossians 3. 1-11

Matthew 22. 34-40

The modern fashion industry sells images as much as clothes. Rarely do people buy new garments merely to hang them in the wardrobe. Most of us want to be seen in them and through them make a fashion statement to others.

St Paul uses this idea to explain the Christian Life. He says it is like taking off one set of clothes that are dirty and unfashionable (un-Godly) and replacing them with a new, clean and attractive set that show we have a renewed nature.

This makeover, this transformation, is permanent

It is as if we'd died and been resurrected.

Paul says, if you've been given these new clothes, don't leave them hanging up but put them on. Being a Christian requires active co-operation with God in his life-giving process.

So we have a New Image, a New Lifestyle

This involves:

- 1. A new Status to celebrate. Our lives are infected by God**
- 2. A New Society to join. We belong to a universal community of believers which is expressed on earth by our church family**
- 3. A New Style of Living to practise**
Paul lists a whole list of wrong things, greed meanness, dishonesty etc that have to be taken off
- 4. A New Speech to learn. The traffic in words has never been more dangerous than it is today: innuendoes, propaganda, gossip and lies, verbal bullying etc.**

We change by repenting of each wrong path of behavior that we become conscious of. These are old clothes which have to come off and be replaced by new ones, with the help of the Spirit.

Witness: Questions to discuss



See discussion and suggested Bible Study in the booklets

Also

1. What "old clothes" might you personally need to discard and also we as a church need to discard?
2. Does this teaching mean that we can "earn" our salvation?
3. If not, where does the teaching fit in?

Spend some time thinking and praying about the abolition of slavery and the changes that needed to occur in the lives of some of the great men and women who influenced this abolition. Thank God for them.