

There's Only One Valid Interpretation of Life: God's

Ricardo Campos, Elder Grace Chapel, Orange, CA July 19, 2009

I Introduction

Seeing the title of this sermon, someone might say, "That's a bit arrogant; so, only Christians are right?" My contention is not, "only Christians are right," it's, "only the Christian God of the Bible is right," everyone else is wrong. If the God of the Bible exists as proclaimed in Scripture, then it follows that whatever He says about life is right and everything contrary to this is wrong. Why? Because He created all of it, i.e., every aspect of life (work, family, marriage, parents, children, employees, employers, etc.) finds its origins in God.

II How Do We Know That God's Interpretation of Life Is the Correct One?

A. The Colossians' Dilemma: Attacked by a Different Interpretation of Life

1:3-8, the Colossians have a successful Christian walk.

1:9-11, Paul wants this successful walk to continue.

1:12-14, they should thank God for redeeming them through His Son.

1:15-20, Christ, the image of God, created and sustains all of life.

1:21-23, the God of the universe bled and died to one day see believers stand perfect before Him.

1:24-29, Paul also suffers to see believers stand perfect before Christ.

2:1-3, Paul wants believers to be encouraged by his suffering and gain further knowledge from God and Christ, who hold all wisdom and knowledge.

2:4, Paul introduces the danger the Colossians face: man's persuasive words.

2:5-7, Paul wants the Colossians to continue walking according to Christ's interpretation of life.

2:8-9, Paul clarifies the danger: beware of man's interpretation/philosophy of life. And if that philosophy is not according to Christ, then it's not according to God.

2:10-13, believers are **complete** in Christ since they're forever united with Him.

2:14-15, Christ killed man's dogma, man's interpretation of life, on the Cross.

2:16-23, since man's interpretation/philosophy of life is dead (in fact useless) why would believers subject themselves to it? They shouldn't.

3:1 - 4:6, since you are permanently united with Christ, the God of the universe, live life according to His interpretation not man's.

III Does it Actually Hold True in Real Life that Christ's Philosophy of Life is Right and Man's is Wrong?

- A. The Favored Employee: What kind of work environment does a boss create when he/she favors one employee above another? Is it conducive to amicable employee relationships and productivity in the workplace? No! Man says it's OK to favor one employee above another, but Christ says to treat them all equally, Col. 4:1. Which interpretation of this employer/employee relationship is right? God's. Which one leads to problems? Man's.
- B. Intimacy between a Husband and Wife: Man thinks that intimacy between a husband and wife is something that can be violated. He expresses this philosophy in films, sitcoms, and novels such as *The Bridges of Madison County*. If you're unhappy with the sex-life in your marriage, man's advice is to have an affair so that you can fulfill what isn't being fulfilled at home, or (even more ridiculous) to save your marriage.¹

What is Christ's opinion on the matter? Sex is a sacred act that bonds the husband and wife together into "one flesh," Gen. 2:24. This "one flesh" is a union created by God and it's a union that no one must interfere with, Mtt. 19:4-6. In the Old Testament, if anyone interfered with this union, the punishment was death, Deut. 22:22.

IV Conclusion

Though man's advice, his knowledge and wisdom (which is produced by his own thinking) sounds wise, in the end, it is utterly useless, Col. 2:23. Contrary to this, the God of the Bible created all of life. Thus, it makes sense that whatever He says about life is true wisdom and knowledge. If we don't follow His advice, His philosophy on life, then we are bound to have problems.

¹ *Why having an affair could save your marriage*,
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/2095967/Why-having-an-affair-could-save-your-marriage.html>.