

COGA NEWS

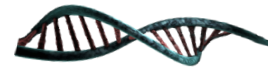


WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- Receiving the DNA of Jesus
- Upcoming Events
- A Little Something to Laugh About



RECEIVING THE DNA OF JESUS



Bishop Cecil Reid

Colossians 3:11 - "Christ is all and in all. " Paul laid down the rules of the Christian life in his letter to the Colossians. Christians are to: "Set your affections on things above and, not on things on the earth. For you are, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (v.3). Through the radical transformation of the believer, we received the DNA of God - holiness; the fundamental and distinctive characteristic or quality of Jesus Christ. Because of this, the believer is required to "put to death those things that belong to our earthly nature" (v.5). And then to "put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of his creator" (v.10). The more a believer knows and understands of God, the more he will be like Jesus in character and conduct.

In other words, the Christian life cannot be half-hearted, lukewarm, fickle, and inconsistent. It demands total commitment. Jesus Christ is not to be just a part of our lives, but He is to be our all. Jesus is not just something to the Christian, He is everything – "He is ALL and in all." Why is this so? – "For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God; where your lives are being renewed in the knowledge after the image of Jesus Christ" (v.3,10). Receiving the DNA of Jesus, Jesus becomes our Holy Center!

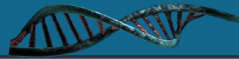
As Jesus Christ lives in the bosom (center) of the Father's heart; so should we live in the center of Jesus' heart! He becomes our treasure: and where your treasure is, there is your heart (v.2; Matt. 6:21). As your heart is in Jesus, you also set propositionally with him in the heavenly places (Eph.2:6). Jesus must become not only your Savior and your Lord but also your life (Col. 3:11). Therefore, whatever you do in word or deed, all should be done heartily as unto the Lord, and not to men; knowing that of the Lord you shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for you serve the Lord Christ (vv.17, 23-24).

Holiness can only be realized when in union with Jesus Christ. That spiritual life "involves the human effort of "seeking," and redirecting our minds and hearts on heavenly things (Col. 3:1-3). That is why we must discipline ourselves to prayer, silence, reading His word, worship, leading a dedicated life, and service to others.

For in Jesus Christ, we find the fundamental pattern and strength for becoming holy, - Like HIM! (Matt. 5:48)



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To be holy is to be human in Christ, to find in him our life's purpose and direction, and through union with Him to become what we were designed to be from the very beginning (Eph.1:4).



JESUS CHRIST IS OUR CENTER! With Him as our center or DNA, the following areas are influenced in the believer's life.

1. **Holy Intellect:** A holy person is one who constantly has his mind and heart renewed in the knowledge of the Scriptures (v. 3). In Paul's command, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you RICHLY" (v. 16). The apostle Paul makes clear that every believer should be well instructed in the doctrine of Jesus Christ, - that it should be constantly in review, frequently preached, explained, and enforced among them. That all the wisdom comprised in the scriptures should be well understood. Wherever God's word is seriously read, heard, or preached, there is God himself, and will remain so under these constant conditions.

Cultivation of holy biblical wisdom through the Scriptures will be the determining factor in how we spend our money, use our time, use our words, behave sexually, giving our witness, and willingly suffer with Christ in the midst of this present evil world. It is by the scriptures we discover all of the treasures of wisdom and Knowledge hidden in Jesus Christ (2:3).

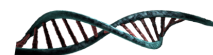
2. **Vocational Holiness:** A holy person possesses "clarity" about the meaning of life and the particular vocation to which Jesus is calling them.

Vocational Holiness is much more than finding the job God has for us. - It is also the courage to move courageously, faithfully, hopefully, and joyfully to the life God offers us in our gift of years. To be holy is to learn to "live in time and in tune;" to be empowered to say at the end of our days, "I have completed the work that was given to me." We have freed ourselves from the sinful tendencies of self-deception and self-illusion of "either thinking too highly of ourselves or discounting ourselves. Jesus is our center.

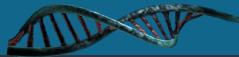
Through A renewed mind, we seek those things which are above and our affections are in hot pursuit in putting to death those various sins that exist in us, and seek to express themselves through different "members" of our human bodies. While at the same time, putting on the "new man" that bears Christ's image (v.5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14).

Our Job Description or Vocation is preceded with "Put On," meaning "dress oneself" with certain virtues and qualities as:

- Bowels of Mercies (v.12). Be merciful, not in acts only, but in spirit and affection. "Let your heart dictate to your hand" - to be clothed with mercy (figuratively). Let your tenderest feelings come in contact with the miseries of the distress as soon as it presents itself. Feel the slightest touch of another man's misery as the clothing that you put over your body. Let your feelings be at hand and feel and show compassion as soon as you are touched.



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- Be clothed in Charity [love] (v.14). All of our actions should be set in motion by love that unites the whole. -- Love is "the bond of perfection." This presents the notion of a soldier's belt, that binds the rest of the clothing close to the body. To love God with all the heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love his neighbor as oneself, is the perfection which the new covenant requires. (Mark 12:30,31).
- Live Harmoniously and Be Thankful. "Let the peace of God RULE in your hearts, because you have been called into one body: and be thankful" (3:15).

3. **Social Holiness:** A Holy Person has the knowledge of God's love for us and the call to love God and our neighbors. Love is an "Invitation to social Holiness." Love and Holiness are married to each other and will always express themselves together.

Social holiness will have us to love others as Christ has loved us. It is much more than simply being nice. Holy people understand that love is the fulfillment of the law

(Matt.22:39). They understand that love is fundamentally another word for "SERVICE" (v.17, 18, 23, 24; 4:1). Social Holiness calls us to be lights in a dark world (Matt.5:14).

4. **Emotional Holiness:** Those of the holy community of Jesus has a constant manifestation of "deep-seated abiding "joy." They have become skillful in living in a fragmented world with a "deep and flexible joy." Jesus Christ is their "EMOTIONAL CENTER!" They can endure all the storms of life without surrendering to despair. They have buoyancy, an emotional maturity that is evident in a deep abiding devotion that causes them to endure!

There is joy in their mortality of their limitations, as well as their strengths and their victories.

This emotional holiness (joy) will allow us to transform each moment of each day, each week, and each year into opportunities to live fully intellectual, vocational, social, and emotional holiness like Jesus with His holy DNA. Amen!



UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

- 25th > CBS Staff Training

SEPTEMBER

- 11th > Auxiliary Appreciation Sunday

Find more information on www.cogainc.org



A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- "If H2O is the formula for water, what is the formula for ice...H2O cubed."
- "I couldn't afford an Ancestry DNA kit...So I announced that I had won a million dollars and I found new relatives coming from everywhere."