

Life in Christ (3) – New identity!

Sun 8 June 2008- Colossians 3:1-14

3.1 What difference does it make being a Christian?

- A plane ticket to heaven?
- Or something more in the here and now?

3.2 Identity shapes behaviour

- e.g. football team
- e.g. In life: Career
 - Relationships
 - Opinion of others
 - ‘Performance identity’

3.3 Christian identity shapes Christian behaviour (v1-4)

- A change in identity:
 - Dead to your old identity in worldly things
 - Raised to your new identity in Christ
- God says: “I love you even when you don’t perform well.”
- e.g. Boss who hates criticism
- e.g. Our own struggles with performance identity

3.4 So focus on your Christian identity (v5-14)

- The motivation of our Christian identity
- The mistake of simply saying: “Just stop it.”
- The Bible’s way: “Know who you are in Christ and stop it.”

3.5 Questions for further reflection

- *What worldly things are you tempted to find your identity in?*
(So what do you live for? What do you fear losing more than anything else?
What occupies most of your time or your thinking time?)
- *How does appreciating your identity in Christ free you up from seeking your identity in these worldly things?*
- *What would Christian behaviour, shaped by your Christian identity, look like in these particular areas?*