

Kingdom of God Session 6: Living in the light of the kingdom (part 1)

To quote a text we read in session 4: “[God] has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves” (Colossians 1:13)

We have thought about how we live in a kingdom which is now but still to come, so today we look at some of the ways in which we should live as citizens of that good kingdom. It’s an enormous subject! We will barely scratch the surface but hope to start giving us things to think about and put into practice. We will concentrate on one (long) passage only.

To start, what do you think: Which comes first – Christian behaviour or being a Christian?

Read Colossians 3:1–17

1. vv. 1–4. From a heavenly perspective, what are we? How does that relate to how we should behave on earth?
2. vv. 5–14. What things should we do? What things should we not do?
3. What things that we are not to do are commonly talked about in churches? What are less commonly talked about? Why do you think that’s so? Are they all of equal importance? Which of them do you think do most harm?
4. In verse 11 Paul brings in some of the divisions in the Colossian church. Why do you think he does so at this point? What similar sort of divisions are there in our churches and how can we overcome them?
5. vv. 15–17. God wants us to become better citizens of his kingdom. How can we help one another do this? What aids does he offer us?

Read Colossians 3:18 – 4:6

6. 3:18–4:1. Paul gives some practical applications of Christian living. How do these balance each other? What does this tell us about God’s concern for our individual situations?
7. 4:2–4. What advice do we get here about how to pray? How can we put this into practice?
8. 4:5–6. Paul urges us to be wise and gracious in our life and conversation. To conclude, and as we go into the next week, think about how you could put this into practice.