



Life Group Notes

Who am I? Our True Identity

Session 4: I am blameless

Opening questions:

Most of us have memories associated with blame, often going back to childhood:

- Did someone else get blamed for something you did? Did you deliberately get them into trouble? Did you feel guilty or gleeful?
- Were you blamed for something you didn't do? If you protested your innocence were you accused of lying? Do you still feel pain or resentment over this?
- If you did something wrong and were punished, did you accept the justice of it?

Read: Colossians 1. 15-23, aloud, then silently, then aloud again.

- This is another mind-blowing passage! Dwell on this portrait of the Son. Here again Paul takes us out of the everyday world, into the sweep of God's eternal plans and purposes, from the beginning to the end of time. Does it make you feel your view of Jesus is too limited and domesticated? Yet he is 'Immanuel, God with us' at the same time: see John 1.14. Spend some time in worship, maybe singing or listening to 'Jesus, you are the radiance of the Father's glory' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldzQqzVj1I8>
- Read verses 19-22. How did this 'transaction' on the cross make us blameless? Here are some scriptures to consider. 2 Corinthians 5.21; Romans 3. 19-26 (Paul is writing to Jews, pointing out that Jews and Gentiles alike are saved through Christ's death on the cross.) God could not turn a blind eye to human sin. How did the Judge become the justifier? Another image is that of Jesus as the final and eternally effective sacrifice for sins. See John 1.29

Respond:

- Listen to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LULK2nZ6sCc>
- Pray for one another, to experience the liberation of knowing that God sees us as blameless, because Jesus bore the brunt of God's righteous anger on our behalf. 'Because the sinless Saviour died, my sinful soul is counted free, And God the just is satisfied to look on him and pardon me.'
- Does the fact that I'm blameless in God's sight because of Jesus' sinless death in my place give me carte blanche to do what I like? See Romans 6. 1-2 , 1 John 1. 5-10
- There's an expression, 'Keeping short accounts with God'. Confession is not only for church once a week!
Consider this daily '**Examen**' method.
 1. Give Thanks: Consider how the day you just lived was a gift from God
 2. Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate our day, so that we may see it as God sees it.
 3. Review: ask the Holy Spirit to help you consider your emotions, thoughts, and actions.
 4. With the help of the Holy Spirit, search yourself and confess where you have fallen short—in your actions, mind, and heart.
 5. Look Forward: Consider where in your life you need God in the day to come.