

Christ Transforms His People
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“[Jesus] is before all things, and in him all things hold together” Colossians 1:17

There are some people in our world that want to place faith in a neat and tidy box. This thought process treats faith as simply something you do on the side. When it is placed in a neat and tidy box it doesn't interact with any other aspects of your life. It is a very individualistic way of thinking - my faith is my own and I can't (or shouldn't) let it impact anyone else. This way of thinking also treats faith as something negative. If that neat and tidy box spills over into other aspects of life it will impact me and those around me negatively. It is why we're told religion is a topic we need to avoid when gathering with family or friends.

Here are some ways in which this way of thinking plays out in the world. A child does not want to attend church. The parent does not want to make them attend. The child needs to be able to choose their own faith. The parent thinks, “Who am I to press my beliefs onto them?”

A person does whatever it takes to advance in their career. They attend worship on Sunday morning and realize that some of their methods may be contrary to their faith. They seek forgiveness, but then return to their same pattern of behavior. They can't let their faith get in the way of getting ahead.

A person says they believe in Jesus, and that's all they need. They attend church when they feel like it. They serve others when they feel like it. They live their life the way they want to. They're saved by Jesus and that's good enough.

The truth of the Gospel of Jesus does not allow us to ascribe to these ways of thinking. Since Jesus holds all things together, we as His people are transformed by the Gospel. We are changed because Jesus lived, died, and rose for us. That means that Jesus's resurrection changes and transforms everything we say and do.

Later in Colossians Paul writes, “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Col. 3:17). The concept of a neat and tidy faith box is non-existent in the Scriptures. Do everything in the name of Jesus. He transforms how you live, how you speak, how you raise children, how you work, how you serve, and everything else. Belief in the resurrected Savior transforms you and makes you different. It distinguishes you from everyone and everything around you. Jesus as the Lord, Master, and Creator of all things, came down to the Creation as a servant. So Paul says, “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” (Col. 3:6-7).

While individually and together we walk imperfectly, our faith as Christians is a great thing for the world. Employers should want to hire Christians because they love and respect fellow employees and clients. Schools should love to have Christians in their buildings because they love to serve. Teachers and coaches can count on them to be leaders. Christians are the ones who care about the people around them. Don't keep your faith in a neat and tidy box. Let it impact all things!