

December 8, 2019

Series: Spelling It Out

Part 4: The “S” Word

In reflecting on last Sunday’s message, what stood out to you most?

What encouraged or inspired you?

Was there anything you weren’t sure you agreed with?

Was there anything that made you think “I need to ask God to help me do better in that area”?

When you think of a “great” person, who do you think of? What makes them *great*?

How did Jesus define greatness? [Mark 9:33-35, Mark 10:31, Luke 9:46-48, Luke 22:24-27, Matt 23:11-12]

READ Colossians 3:1-4

“Since you have been given a new life in Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

This was the verse that launched the “Spelling It Out” series in week 1. How are these verses and the verses Jim talked about last Sunday connected?

READ Colossians 3:11 and Galatians 3:26-28

“In this new life, it doesn’t matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. In some of his other letters he adds “male and female” to the list. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.”

“For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

How is “being equal” different from “being the same”. Why is it a good thing that we are not all the same?

Jim said that submission is the secret to true greatness. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Is there a difference between *submission* and *subservience*? How would you describe the difference?

Is there a difference between being *unselfish* and being *selfless*? How would you describe the difference? (In today's nomenclature the words *unselfish* and *selfless* are close synonyms. However, Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines the word selfless as "having no concern for oneself".) Does God want us to have no concern for ourselves?

It is a wonderful thing for us that God is unselfish. Why might it be a tragic thing for us if God was *selfless*? [i.e. why is it a *good* thing for us that God remains first and foremost committed to himself?]

Why do we have such an aversion to the idea of "submission?" What is it we fear?

Should we ever give ultimate control of our lives over to anyone else (other than Jesus/God)?

Can we submit to someone without giving them control over our lives? How?

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION:

Paul says we should submit to one another

- A. When there is mutual romantic attraction.
- B. Because you have such great esteem and admiration for them
- C. Because they deserve it.
- D. Only when you feel like it
- E. Out of reverence for Christ.

Correct answer: E. "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:21)

Why does Paul say we should submit to one another "out of reverence for Christ?"

In Paul's letter to the Christians living in Philippi, he says we should "*consider others as more important than ourselves.*" (Philippians 2:3). How can we do this in a practical way?

How would you describe a "submission competition?"

When Jesus was betrayed, arrested, unjustly tried, tortured and executed, was he ever at any time not ultimately in control?

What would marriage, family, and relationships in general look like if everyone fully and completely lived out Colossians 3:18 - 4:1 AND Ephesians 5:21 - 6:9?