

Christ the King  
Colossians 1:11-20

- I. Today is a day on the Christian calendar called “Christ the King Sunday.”
  - a. It’s a day set aside to proclaim Jesus as King.
  - b. That’s why that video was appropriate for this morning.
- II. Jesus has many names in Scripture – two of which are Christ, and King.
  - a. Christ – the Greek form of the Hebrew word *Messiah*, which means Anointed One.
  - b. King – or ruler.
- III. Let’s explore some of the others right now.
  - a. When this sanctuary was built – we “decorated” the floors and walls with Scripture.
    - i. All the outside walls of the building, written on the floor, are some of the Biblical names for God.
    - ii. I wrote them down and found the location of many of them before they covered the floor.
  - b. This morning those names have been posted around the room (on the floor) – at approximately the spot where they were written.
    - i. We’re going to play the video one more time.
    - ii. While its playing I want to invite you to roam around the room and notice the names that are recorded at all of these places.
    - iii. Write down the three or four names that jump out at you.
      1. Unique – never heard before.
      2. Ones that have always been familiar and meaningful to you.
      3. One that God is speaking to you through this morning.
    - iv. Then we’ll get back together and talk about what these names can teach us.
- IV. In Colossians, Paul uses a number of ways (a number of names) to describe Jesus.
  - a. Jesus is supreme – above all others. (king; exalted one) – v.15.
  - b. Jesus is the image of God – v.15.
  - c. Jesus is the glue that holds all things together – v.16-17.
  - d. Jesus is the head of the church – v.18.
  - e. Jesus is the fullness of God – v.19.
- V. What does all of this (all of these names) tell us about Jesus?
  - a. It establishes Jesus’ identity.
    - i. My name – establishes my identity.
    - ii. Where/who I came from.
    - iii. What family I am a part of.
    - iv. Jesus identity is established through his name – Son of God.
  - b. It establishes Jesus’ authority.
    - i. Titles (names) carry that weight.
    - ii. Mr/Ms/Dr./Rev. – all establish authority in a particular field, a particular role or a particular place.
    - iii. Jesus authority is established through his name – Jesus Christ.
- VI. What does it mean to live as children of a God who is so awesome that you need several dozen names to begin to describe him?
  - a. Well, that would depend on our identity.
    - i. When we proclaim “Christ the King” what does that say about us – God’s children?
    - ii. Who are we in relation to a God like that?
  - b. In the Bible, Jesus has a clearly defined identity as God’s Son, the Savior of the world.
    - i. We celebrate that on a day like this.

- ii. But what escapes our notice is the way in which through the identity of Christ – our identity (and our authority) is also established.
  - iii. Because of who Jesus is ... that has tremendous impact on who we are.
- VII. Now that we have a clear picture of Jesus identity – what's *our* identity?
  - a. Friend. (John 15:15)
  - b. Beloved. (Song of Solomon-favorite reference)
  - c. Joint Heir. (Romans 8:17)
  - d. Son/Daughter/Child. (Luke 6:35)
  - e. Favored. (2 Corinthians 6:2)
- VIII. Why is this important to remember?
  - a. Too often we act like we have no identity worth mentioning.
    - i. We are – sinner, unclean, worthless.
    - ii. We are so low we have to look up to see the bottom.
    - iii. NOT the Bible – because Jesus has claimed us as his own ...
      - 1. We have a new name (Rev.2:17).
      - 2. We have status. We're brought into the family.
      - 3. We're in!
      - 4. We're so in that we are joint heirs with God's true son Jesus. (Galatians 4:7)
  - b. We act like we have no authority worth claiming.
    - i. We are – drifters, without direction, fickle.
      - 1. We are just along for the ride and God (in Christ) does all the work and we end up where we end up.
      - 2. It's not like we have a significant role to play in this drama that God is unfolding.
    - ii. NOT the Bible – we are not insignificant to God's plan, we are a key piece of God's plan.
      - 1. We have responsibility (Matthew 25:34)
      - 2. Kingdom – we have a kingdom to rule over. We have a job! A role! With some authority!
- IX. Christ is King – we have authority and identity.
  - a. I'm his friend. I'm his beloved. I belong to him.
    - i. I'm a son of the king – a daughter of the king – he is my father.
    - ii. We are – heirs, princes and princesses, honored.
    - iii. I am glorious, worth fighting for, worth sending Jesus to die for.
  - b. You matter.
  - c. Because of who Jesus is – you have a new identity.
    - i. You are children of the King.
    - ii. Nothing compares to you.
  - d. Do the children of the king live like slaves? Do the heirs to the throne act like stable boys?
    - i. You know God's names, you're pretty familiar with the names of Christ from the Bible.
    - ii. What is your name? How does God see you? What does he call you? What does he see in you?
    - iii. - quietly. Let's reflect.
      - 1. God who am I? What is my unique identity/authority in you?
      - 2. What specific purpose have you written upon my heart?
  - e. Reflection.