

SERMON GUIDE

DATE

February 18, 2024

MESSAGE

The Supreme Life: Week Seven

About

his message broaches the delicate balance between personal faith in Jesus & the pressures of religious customs & is an invitation to resist external judgments on religious observance and find solace in the true substance of Christ.

Big Idea

In essentials, unity;
in non-essentials, liberty;
in all things, love.

Key Points

- The mission of the church is not to take a stance against, but to promote the name of Jesus.
- The power of the cross is still breaking chains, elevating our freedom in Christ.
- We should embrace our beliefs, unmarred by external judgments and man-made doctrines.

Scriptures: Colossians 2:16-23

16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, **17** which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. **18** Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, **19** and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. **20** Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— **21** “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” **22** which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? **23** These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

- QUESTION 1** *In what ways have you experienced the tension between personal faith and religious practices imposed by others? How does Paul's message to the Colossian church help us navigate this tension today? (**Colossians 2:20-22**)*
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- QUESTION 2** *Reflecting on the sermon's emphasis on love and sacrifice in overcoming personal offenses, how can we better practice speaking the truth in love to promote healing and unity? (**Ephesians 4:15-16**)*
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- QUESTION 3** *The topic of confronting friends with destructive patterns was brought up in the sermon. How can we approach such sensitive situations with grace and truth while maintaining the unity of the Spirit? (**Galatians 6:1**)*
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- QUESTION 4** *Discuss the importance of reconciliation within the church body, as highlighted in the sermon. How can we actively pursue reconciliation in our own community of believers? (**2 Corinthians 5:18-19**)*
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- QUESTION 5** *The sermon addressed the potential elevation of spiritual gifts like speaking in tongues to an essential status. How can we appreciate and encourage the use of spiritual gifts without creating division or hierarchy among believers? (**1 Corinthians 12:4-11**)*
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Notes