

How We Can Reflect Jesus

(Colossians 1:1-8)

- Introduction:
1. The beauty of the Bible is that while generations may come and go, the Bible remains relevant and avoids the ebbs and flows of generational extremes.
 - a. Rote formalism/obedience is vain (Amos 5:21-24; 1 Co. 13:1-3).
 - b. Relationship isn't an excuse to discard rules (2 Ch. 26:4, 16-20; Mt. 16:21-23).
 2. The reason I mention this is that I want you to see that the Bible is sufficient to meet our needs, regardless of our generation.
 - a. And in particular, the book of Colossians presents Jesus as the preeminent Lord who demands obedience (Col. 3:5-10), but also stresses that without a relationship with him, we have no hope (Col. 1:27).
 3. In the first eight verses of Colossians Paul brags on the Colossian Christians for being a reflection of their Lord.
 4. Let's note how they did it, and how we can do the same.

I. We Reflect Jesus by Exhibiting Faith (1:4).

- A. Jesus had absolute trust in his father and always did what he wanted (Jn. 4:34)
- B. That faith/trust in God sustained him unto the end.
- C. We need a faith that will not falter even even as we approach a fiery furnace (Dan. 3:16-18), wild beasts (Rev. 2:10), or the executioner's sword (Acts 12:2).

II. We Reflect Jesus by Our Love for All the Saints (1:4).

- A. Jesus loved the church and gave himself for it (Acts 20:28).
- B. No one could ever question Jesus' love for the church, but they may be able to question our love for the church.
- C. Yet, we are to be known for our love (John 13:34-35).
- D. Love the brotherhood (Heb. 13:11).

III. We Reflect Jesus by Our Hope in Heaven (1:5).

- A. (Hebrews 12:2).
- B. Is Heaven everything to you?
- C. (Hebrews 11:9-10; 13-16).

IV. We Reflect Jesus by Letting the Word Bear Fruit (1:6).

- A. (John 8:32) The truth sets us free.
- B. This is why Jesus never compromised (Mark 10:22).
- C. May God help us to be consumed by a zeal for God's word in a godless society.
- D. Now is not the time to be silent!
- E. Whether the world listens or not, it should become as a burning fire shut up in our bones so that we cannot contain it (Jer. 20:9).
- F. Speak it in love (Eph. 4:15); seasoned with salt (Col. 4:6).

- Conclusion:
1. May we never lose sight of the preeminence of Jesus.
 2. May God help us to reflect him because there is a world who desperately needs him.