

Shared Identity

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 10

Bible Study

- In biblical & ancient secular covenants, exchanging coats represented giving of oneself
 - Joseph's coat
 - Gen 37:3-4, ³ “Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. ⁴ When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.”
 - “robe” (Heb, n, *kuttonet*), a shirt-like tunic that reached the knees
 - “richly ornamented” (Heb, n, *pas*): (1) primarily refers to palms of person's hands or soles of their feet; (2) an ankle-length tunic with sleeves, worn by people of noble rank because additional material made it more expensive; also implies especially rich design or color
 - According to verses 3&4, why did Joseph's brothers hate him?
 - Jesus' parable of prodigal son
 - Lk 15:20, “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him.”
 - How could his father recognize him from a great distance?
 - God's covenant with Israel
 - Ex 28:4, “These are the garments they are to make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a woven tunic, a turban and a sash. They are to make these sacred garments for your brother Aaron and his sons, so they may serve me as priests.”
 - They wore the covenant garments when performing their covenant duties
 - David & Jonathan's covenant
 - 1 Sam 18:3-4, “And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.”
 - Jonathan was a prince, king's son; gave David his robe, probably royal robe

- In what way did God take on our identity?
 - John 1:1, 14, ¹ “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us.”
 - Who does this passage call the Word?
 - How did the Son of God take on our identity?
 - 2 Cor 5:21 “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
 - What exchange of identity or nature does this describe?
 - God took on our identity: God the Father sent God the Son to earth to become human
 - What part of God’s nature do we take on, according to this verse?
 - It was necessary for Jesus to come to earth as a human to die for mankind’s sin
 - Rom 5:19, “For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”
 - Heb 2:14 “Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil.”
 - If God were to defeat Satan directly, he would violate the legal transfer Adam & Eve voluntarily made with Satan in the Garden of Eden
 - God took on our identity
- How do we take on God’s identity?
 - Rom 8:29 “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”
 - “likeness” (Gk, n, *eikon*): (1) image, portrait; (2) likeness, having the same form; (3) representation, pattern
 - Php 2:7, Jesus “... made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”
 - “nature” (Gk, n, *morphe*): (1) nature, character; (2) shape, visible form
 - “likeness” (Gk, n, *homoioima*): similarity of form or appearance
 - Jesus took servant’s nature (*morphe*) & human likeness (*homoioima*)

- Rom 8:29, we're to be conformed to Jesus' likeness (*eikon*); but Php 2:7, Jesus took on human likeness (*homoioima*)
 - "firstborn" (Gk, n, *prototokos*): first in a series; or "prototype"
 - If Jesus is the prototype, what does that mean for us?
- Rom 13:14 "Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ"
 - "clothe yourselves" (Gk, v, *enduo*): (1) enter into or get into; (2) clothe or dress oneself (in the sense of getting into a garment)
 - What is it we're expected to do?
- 2 Cor 3:18 "And we ... are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."
 - "transformed" (Gk, v, *metamorphoo*): change essential nature of something; transfigure, change appearance
 - "likeness" (Gk, n, *eikon*)
 - What does it mean to be transformed into Jesus' likeness?
 - "ever-increasing glory" (Gk, n, *doxa*)
 - What does this mean to you?
- 2 Co 5:21, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Questions

- What does all this say about importance of becoming like Jesus?
- What kingdom responsibilities or obligations does shared covenant identity impose on us?
- How must this affect our thinking?
- How does our shared identity enable us to be more effective in the kingdom?

Conclusion

- Because we have entered the new covenant, God expects us to become increasingly like Jesus, properly represent him in this fallen world and become increasingly effective in his kingdom