

## **Reflect Him**

(Colossians 1:1-8)

- Introduction:
1. As time moves on, we are able to identify peculiar social nuances to various generations.
    - a. Baby Boomers - value rules; moved by obligation and responsibility; prove a sense of oughtness and they'll work.
    - b. Millennials - value relationships more than rules. They are moved by the relationship behind the rules they are asked to obey.
  2. The result is that both generations disparage the other.
    - a. Baby Boomers say Millennials are rebellious
    - b. Millennials say the Baby Boomers blindly follow.
  3. The truth is, neither generation is faultless.
    - a. Rules without relationship result in rebellion.
    - b. Relationship without rules result in ruin.
  4. 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).
  5. 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).
  6. In the first eight verses of Colossians Paul brags on the Colossian Christians for being a reflection of their Lord.
  7. 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. Ills. Of man at the airline counter.
- D. Ills. Of children jumping in my arms.
- E. (1 Thess. 1:10) Warn them of the wrath to come - stop backsliding and faithlessness.
- F. 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. One of the most distasteful things I know of is when a disciple of Jesus attempts to you Jesus as an excuse to have a hateful disposition.
  - 1. Yes, Jesus spoke plainly (Matthew 23).
  - 2. But Jesus knew the hearts of men, we don't (Eph. 4:29-32; 1 Cor. 13).
- E. Love the brotherhood (Heb. 13:11).

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

- A. (Hebrews 12:2) - For the joy set before him.
- B. Ills. Humanist Manifesto II - Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. They distract us from present concerns.
- C. On the contrary...Have you lived long enough to be hurt so deeply that you long for the hope laid up for you in Heaven?
- D. Ills. Praying for people who ask you to pray they die.
- E. John - Lord, come quickly.
- F. Is Heaven everything to you?
- G. (2 Maccabees 7).
- H. Michael - Prayers misfortune, calamity, sickness...

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

- A. (John 8:32) The truth sets us free. This is why Jesus never compromised (Mark 10:22).
- B. May God help us to be consumed by a zeal for God's word in a godless society.
- C. Now is not the time to be silent!
- D. 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).
- E. Speak it in love (Eph. 4:15); seasoned with salt (Col. 4:6).

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