

The Centrality Of Christ

I was thinking the other day about my daughters, who have now both moved out of our house. They are on their own, without me and their mother. I miss them. I think about them. I yearn for their success. So I pray for them. **My first prayer is that they keep Jesus at the center of their lives.** This is the only thing that will give them true happiness, stability, peace, joy, etc, etc. Jesus at the center.

The New Testament constantly points to the centrality and supremacy of Jesus Christ... as well it should, since Jesus is the personal, visible, bodily expression of God Himself. To exalt Jesus is to exalt the One True God. Colossians 1:15-17 says... **"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."** That pretty much says it all! All things were created by Him and for Him.

At West Hills Community Church, I desire that we exalt Jesus Christ as the center of everything we do. May we not be distracted off this course. In 2015, may we not be distracted off this course. In our individual lives, may we not be distracted off this course. In our marriages and families, may we not be distracted off this course. In our church planning and church projects may we not be distracted off this course.

In John 15:5, Jesus Himself said, **"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."** That is the centrality of Christ! Apart from Jesus, we find no success. Apart from Jesus, the train of our lives will derail in the first mile. Apart from Jesus, our church will crash into utter meaninglessness.

One day we'll be with Christ in Heaven where He sits on His throne and there will be no need for the sun or the moon. Why? Because the light of Christ's glory will light the world! (Rev. 21:23) He is at the center both now and always. He is the **"Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."** (Rev. 22:13) We must not wait 'til heaven to put Jesus in His rightful place! Please join with me in 2015 by exalting Jesus Christ as the Supreme Head of our church. We'll pray to Him. We'll worship Him. We'll beseech Him for His help. We'll confess to Him our sin. We'll announce again and again that He is our Lord and our Master. And then we will be blessed.

In our church, love must abound. We say that often. But how can love abound to every new person that comes into our midst? By knowing the heart of Christ, who is at the center of all we do. The heart of Christ is to welcome everyone... not to condone sin, but to love us in our sin and then bring us out of it. **"In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us."** (Col. 3:11 NLT) Christ is all that matters! Christ is all that matters!

My daughters are my precious jewels. I want the absolute BEST for them. The best thing that could happen to them is not more money, or a nicer car, or a big house. The best thing that could happen to them is that they would love Jesus more than anything else in this world. I use my daughters as an example in order to communicate the degree to which I believe this truth about the centrality of Christ. If I want it for my daughters, then surely I want it for everyone. If it's the right counsel for my daughters, then it's the right counsel for everyone.

To our church family at WHCC... May Jesus be the center of our life!

Pastor Marcus Elmer
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