

The Pursuit of a Shadow-free Life (In Christ)

James 1: 16-18 Today's Message

So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures.¹

James 1:17 NASB

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow caused by turning or changing.

I A recap of our history; the Genesis account

Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they ^aknew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves ¹loin coverings. ²

Genesis 3:10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden. I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

- 1) body
- 2) emotions
- 3) mind

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, ^athe lust of the flesh and ^bthe lust of the eyes and ^cthe boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

¹Peterson, Eugene H.: *The Message : The Bible in Contemporary Language*. Colorado Springs, Colo. : NavPress, 2002, S. Jas 1:15-18

^a Is 47:3; Lam 1:8

¹ Or *girdles*

² *New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update*. LaHabra, CA : The Lockman Foundation, 1995, S. Ge 3:7

^a Rom 13:14; Eph 2:3; 1 Pet 2:11

^b Prov 27:20

^c James 4:16

II We create our own clothing to cover our inadequacies.

Men hide under the clothing of their work, their gender, their sex drive, their strength, their position, education and in the process, surrender their position of leadership in the family as a spiritual leader, husband and father.

Acts 6:5 7 men chosen to help daily distribution of food, to tend tables.

Women hide under the clothing of their career, their gender, their quest for beauty, their quest for Mr. Right and romance and surrender their position as the natural nurturer in the family and an assistant to their husbands as the spiritual leader, wife and mother.

A. My shadows will influence my views of everything

People and things

The friends we choose, our politics, our general outlook on life

God and worship

Our church choices, worship styles and the characteristics of God which we choose to embrace at the expense of others

III A life without shadows: The reality I need to pursue

A. Understanding my new reality

John 3:3, 3 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

2 Corinthians 5:17 (our new reality)

17 Therefore if anyone is ^ain Christ, ¹he is ^ba new creature; ^cthe old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ³

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are His workmanship, ^acreated in ^bChrist Jesus for ^cgood works, which God ^dprepared beforehand so that

^a Rom 16:7

¹ Or there is *a new creation*

^b John 3:3; Rom 6:4; Gal 6:15

^c Is 43:18f; 65:17; Eph 4:24; Rev 21:4f

³ *New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update*. LaHabra, CA : The Lockman Foundation, 1995, S. 2 Co 5:17

^a Eph 2:15; 4:24; Col 3:10

^b Eph 1:1; 2:6, 13

^c Titus 2:14

we would ^ewalk in them. ⁴

B. Possessing His new reality for me (the cross)

Galatians 2:20 **My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.** So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 6:14 But may it never be that I would **boast**, except in the **cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, through which **the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world**

Romans 6:6-14 6 knowing this, that our ^aold ¹self was ^bcrucified with **Him, in order that our ^cbody of sin might be ²done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for ^ahe who has died is ¹freed from sin. 8 Now ^aif we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been ^araised from the dead, ¹is never to die again; ^bdeath no longer is master over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 **Even so consider yourselves to be ^adead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.** 12 **Therefore do not let sin ^areign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,** 13 **and do not go on ^apresenting ¹the members of your body to sin as ²instruments of unrighteousness; but ^bpresent yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members****

^d Eph 1:4

^e Eph 4:1

⁴ *New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update.* LaHabra, CA : The Lockman Foundation, 1995, S. Eph 2:10

^a Eph 4:22; Col 3:9

¹ Gr *anthropos*

^b Gal 2:20; 5:24; 6:14

^c Rom 7:24

² Or *made powerless*

^a 1 Pet 4:1

¹ Or *acquitted*

^a Rom 6:4; 2 Cor 4:10; 2 Tim 2:11

^a Acts 2:24; Rom 6:4

¹ Lit *no longer dies*

^b Rev 1:18

^a Rom 6:2; 7:4, 6; Gal 2:19; Col 2:20; 3:3; 1 Pet 2:24

^a Rom 6:14

^a Rom 6:16, 19; 7:5; Col 3:5

¹ Lit *your members to sin*

² Or *weapons*

^b Rom 12:1; 2 Cor 5:14f; 1 Pet 2:24

as ²instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For ^asin shall not ^bbe master over you, for ^cyou are not under law but ^dunder grace.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NLT)

²² *throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.* Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ *Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.*

Ephesians 5:10¹⁰ Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ *Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them.*⁵

Colossians 3:9, ^{1a}Do not lie to one another, *since you ^blaid aside the old ²self with its evil practices,* **10** and have ^aput on the new self who is being ^{1b}renewed to a true knowledge ^caccording to the image of the One who ^dcreated him—

1 Peter 2:24, 24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, *so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.*

^a Rom 8:2, 12

^b Rom 6:12

^c Rom 5:18; 7:4, 6; Gal 4:21

^d Rom 5:17, 21

⁵ Tyndale House Publishers: *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 2nd ed. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House Publishers, 2004, S. Eph 5:10-11

¹ Or *Stop lying*

^a Eph 4:25

^b Eph 4:22

² Gr *anthropos*

^a Eph 4:24

¹ Lit *renovated*

^b Rom 12:2; 2 Cor 4:16; Eph 4:23

^c Gen 1:26; Rom 8:29

^d Eph 2:10

C. Trading in the old system of rules for a love relationship

2 Corinthians 5:14-15,

Either way, **Christ's love controls us**. Since we believe that Christ died for all, **we also believe that we have all died to our old life**.¹⁵ He died for everyone so that those who **receive** his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

1 John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, **and His love is perfected in us**.

D. Theory vs. Reality

On the job training

(The blessing of marriage, family and the church)

Eph 3:10 ...so that the manifold ^awisdom of God might now be ^bmade known **through the church** to the ^crulers and the authorities in ^dthe heavenly *places*.⁶

^a Rom 11:33; 1 Cor 2:7

^b Eph 1:23; 1 Pet 1:12

^c Eph 1:21; 6:12; Col 2:10, 15

^d Eph 1:3

⁶ *New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update*. LaHabra, CA : The Lockman Foundation, 1995, S. Eph 3:10