Fellowship Bible Church
January 10, 2010
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First Things First

Colossians 1:15-18

It was of the most heartbreaking moment he could have ever experienced. He was completely blind-sided. Never in a million years would he have believed it could happen, let alone even be possible.

His mind went back to 27 years earlier when he had first met the dream of his life. The attraction was immediate. In less than two years they stood before their pastor in total submission to each other to live the rest of their lives making the other their priority in every sense of the word.

Over the next seven years they were blessed with three of the most perfect children a couple could hope for. Their future was becoming everything they had planned and promised 25 years earlier. But, now it seemed to implode in an instant. It all began quite "innocently" and without premeditation. Perhaps they had begun to take their faith, their lives, and even their promises for granted. He had become preoccupied at the office, along with its success and affirmation. She was engrossed with the children and the new home and actually was feeling a bit lonely.

Never did he realize how devastated, heartbroken, and painful it would be to discover that his wife's affections were directed to another. Whatever the reason, for whatever brief time, it might have been that he no longer occupied first place in her heart, and he felt betrayed, used, and overwhelmingly jealous. Where would he go from here?

As he and his wife visited with the one who had performed their covenant, he shared his pain and she repented of her unfaithfulness. He will never forget his pastor's words, "Bob, now you have a bit of an idea of what God feels when you and I are unfaithful and choose to give another first place in our hearts rather than Him. He is even more jealous of our love and feels even greater pain when we have made someone or something else a priority or preeminent in our lives." Somehow the words the pastor spoke seemed to have a deeper impact and greater significance than the confession and renewal of commitment from his wife who had ripped his heart to shreds.

How do we value our relationship with Christ? What priority does He have in our lives? How does God feel, what does God feel, when after all He has sacrificed and done to make it possible for us to become united with Him and we, if even for a brief period of time, give our lives and affections to another so that He no longer has first place?

<u>Life Response</u>

1. This week MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on Colossians 1:17-18, *"He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first born from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything."*

> Hand write these two verses on a 3x5 card and keep it before you this week. Make it a point to filter every relationship, conversation, task, thought, etc. through the grid of this passage.

2. As you meditate on verses 15-18 and the five points regarding the significance of Christ, make a list of how each of these points influence you to make Him *"come to have first place in everything."*

3. Select one specific area of your life you will make Him first place in . . .
   (a) your personal life
   (b) your family
   (c) your profession
   (d) socially

4. What are the major barriers you face that will kill the process of making Christ preeminent in your life? Read James 4:1-8 as you think about these barriers.

First Things First

Colossians 1:15-18

'"Our issue is not 'What do I want? but What is wanted of me?'
. . our issue is not 'How can You meet my needs? but rather How can I meet the needs of the world?'
. . . our issue is not ' See how special I am! but 'How great Thou are!'" **-Leonard Sweet**

What Does It Mean?

1. He is ...visible ... Reality
2. He is ...first born ... Purpose
3. He is ...before all things – hold together ... Security
4. He is ...head of the body ... Authority
5. He is ... first born from dead ... Hope

What Does It Matter?

General: Col. 3:1-3
A Mindset/Attitude

Specific: Col. 3:4ff
Relational. 35 areas
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
etc

The Preeminence of Christ

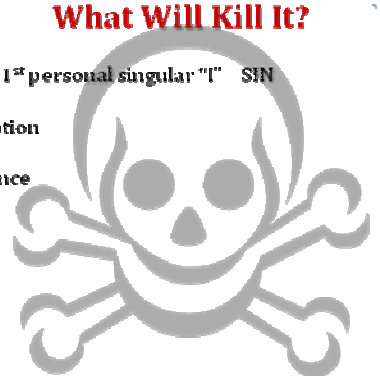
"that He Himself might come to have first place in everything."
Col. 1:18

How Can I Apply It?

Central: Col. 4:1-6

1. Time Vital Relationship with God
2. Accountability Vital Relationship with each other
3. Observable Vital Relationship with "outsiders"

Examples:

What Will Kill It?

1. 1st personal singular "I" SIN
2. Deception
3. Disobedience
4. Distractions
5. Domination