

CHAMELEON

Part 4: Ready to Stand Out

Fred Hartsook, Middle School Pastor
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So, you're ready to stop blending in and start standing out?

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. – Colossians 3:1-3 (English Standard Version)

Some ways we might think to stand out with Jesus:

Saying no to the right bad things

Saying yes to the right soapboxes

Having the right Christian accessories

**Standing out with Jesus is more than just
going from blending in with one group of people to
blending in with a different group of people.**

So, what makes it different?

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as

you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.” – John 17:20-26 (ESV)

In this prayer, Jesus uses assumptive language.

Not may but will.

What is he assuming?

That the world will see Jesus through his disciples, and see God's glory

This is an incredibly hopeful prayer.

Jesus goes beyond wishing and gets all the way to hope.

Jesus is assumptively hopeful.

How do we put on this assumptive hope of Jesus in place of our chameleon skin?

1. Remain in devoted relationship with Christ. Depend on him for everything.

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 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. - John 15:4-6 (NIV)

2. Live in this world as assumptive hoppers.

In a world that will do anything to steal, kill, and destroy your hope in Jesus Christ, your hope will have to be defiant.

The assumptive, defiant hope that Jesus invites to join him in looks nothing like anything else this world has to offer.

"Hope makes the Christian church a constant disturbance in human society."
- Jürgen Moltmann, German Theologian

Small Group Questions

- 1) Have you ever felt like you stood out for a reason you didn't want to stand out?
- 2) Do you see the world around you embracing the hope of Christ? If so, in what ways? If not, why do you think that is?
- 3) Is there anything you need to put down in order to pick up the assumptive, defiant hope of Christ? What is it?
- 4) How will you begin living in that hope today?
- 5) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?

OUR MISSION | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.