

THE BIG IDEA: Raised people are changed people.

The Take-Off

Today we're wrapping up our 4 week look at facts - things we know - and how knowing them can help us rest.

The first week we learned that we can rest in the work that Jesus did on the cross, because his work is finished.

In week 2 we saw how small we are in companions with God and the universe around us, and yet we learned that even though we're small, we seen by God and safe with God. He found us and he's fighting for us! It doesn't mean that we won't face difficult times, but it does mean that if we're resting in his work on the cross (in the hammock!), we win. Last week we got into your back pocket a bit, and talked about resting in the fact that we are provided for, and that when we know what God's given us, it makes us generous toward others.

It's an important fact, but it can be tough because it's measured not by intentions, but by actions. What are we doing with the resources we've been given while we're trusting God for the resources we need?

The first step toward seeing the provision of God is making a decision for God.

When we trust God, we'll open our hands to God, and when we do, he'll provide what we need from HIS limitless supply! We saw that in Abraham's life when he was willing to sacrifice his most prized possession, his son.

And all of that brings us to our final fact, and to help introduce it, I want to introduce you to a 21 year old from Russia: Ivan Kuznetsov.

Ivan has a hobby he likes to call "rooftopping" and it involves climbing to the top of skyscrapers so he can get shots like these.

[IVAN PICS]

Now, I don't know how many of you are scared of heights, but Ivan isn't!

This morning, we can't live life afraid of heights, because we are raised!

This last fact may be the best: We are RAISED. Exactly what we're raised to is spelled out in Colossians 3:1-14

1. We are raised to a new LEVEL

- a. You and I have been raised to new heights!
- b. Some believers don't want to live at a new level because they're scared of heights.
- c. I get it - that's a real fear. I had a panic attack at the top of the world's largest ferris wheel!
- d. Fear of heights is very real, and it's just as real spiritually as it is physically.
- e. Luke 9:57-59 shows us a man scared of heights
 - he's going to follow Jesus anywhere
 - Jesus says, "Come on, but we're not staying in the best hotels!"
 - suddenly, he's good at his current level of commitment
- f. It takes intention to stay at the new level! Since you've been raised...
 - put your HEART on a new level
 - this affects our giving, because like we saw last week in Matthew 6:21, our money follows our heart
 - put your MIND on a new level
 - Phil. 4:8 - change what you think about!
- g. What happens when we're raised to a new level, when our hearts and minds are in a new place?
- h. It changes how we live!

2. We are raised to a new LIFE

- a. Some people are all talk, aren't they?
- b. Politicians come to mind, and that's a shame, isn't it, because some politicians mean what they say?
- c. But we've grown to believe it's all talk, no walk.
- d. Believers who don't take this truth seriously cause the world to see the church the same way.
- e. We're not just raised to a new level that we can learn about, talk about, think about.
- f. We're raised to a new life that matches the new level.
- g. Paul outlines what that new life looks like:
 - it's hidden in Christ - you're in the hammock - wrapped in the Eno! (3:3)
 - it's gives us power to stop what used to rule us (3:5-9)
 - it happens at once (3:8 - But NOW!) and over time (3:10 - BEING renewed)
 - it's a life surrounded by family - family made up of all kinds of people (3:11) [SKIT GUYS VIDEO]

3. We are raised to a new LINEAGE

- a. We talk about this all the time - probably to the point that you get sick of hearing it - but the fact that we are raised to a new level and a new life doesn't give us permission to move to the woods and never be around other believers.
- b. Quite the opposite, Paul lays the big "here's what you're supposed to do" when he starts verse 12 with the word THEREFORE.
- c. Where do we live out this life of being raised to a new level?
- d. In community with others who are also being raised.
- e. In keeping with the "L" theme, we've been raised to a new lineage.
- f. You and I have a new family, and just like the family you grew up with, this family has some "house rules"
- g. Paul lists them in 3:12-13 // have compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience. Extend grace and forgiveness.
- h. Your new family looks nothing like you and yet everyone in it is looking more and more like Jesus!

4. We are raised to a new LOVE

- a. And the cherry on top? The icing on the cake? We've been raised to a new love.
- b. Love is the safety harness that keeps us from falling from the heights that we've been raised to!
- c. It's not the love we're used to, and it isn't a love that is found at the old level at which we once lived.
- d. Nope, this love is supernatural - given to us by God to flow through us to one another
- e. 1 John 4:7-21

The Landing

The fact is that we are raised to a new level, a new life, a new lineage and a new love

The Big Idea sums it up this way: raised people are changed people.

The other reality is that all of that is a bit overwhelming, and so I may have also raised your level of stress!

I think Paul understood the temptation to read this passage and see it as a big to do list, and so he wraps it all up with a reminder that being changed and living as raised people happens in the hammock of what Jesus has already done.

He says to the type A, overachieving, first born Colossians believers, "Whoa! Let the peace of Christ rule in you and let the word of Christ dwell in you! It's all about Jesus, so while he's working these things in you, be together, learn together, worship together and be thankful together."

In other words, be satisfied in Christ with others who are satisfied in Christ.

My satisfaction is in him, and that will be enough.