

R A N D Y W H I T I N G

MAY 28, 2012

Colossians 3: 5-17

Where man puts a period, God places a coma! That's what someone said at a Bible study I attended the other night. It immediately caught my attention and I was eager to hear more. He then said that what he was referring to was what defines us.

Man is quick to define us by our actions. If we tell a lie, we are a liar. If we steal, we are a thief. If we commit murder, we are a murderer. And as many of us know, once we are so defined it is very hard to shed the label. In fact, society seems quick and persistent to permanently attach the label and then at some point we ourselves submit to the label. When that happens we either embrace the label and act accordingly or we embrace the shame and while we no longer engage in the same behavior, we never overcome the label. This defines man's period.

But thank God, God operates differently. He not only sees what we do but who we were created to be. He knows that while we often make bad or horrible choices we have the ability to change. And He knows that if we cry out to Him He has the ability and willingness to save us from ourselves by giving us a new heart and new spirit.

None of us deserves God's salvation! It's His gift to us! It comes to us out of His unending, unfathomable love for us! It's a measure of who He is, not a measure of who we are. He is reconciling mankind back to Himself by transforming us into the image of His Son Jesus Christ!

So while we once told lies, we lie no more. While once we stole, we steal no more. While once we killed, we kill no more. We now take our identity with Christ! This is God's coma!

Praise God!