

# CHAMELEON

## Part 2: Blending in With What?

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### **The Chameleon Effect:**

**Our natural inclination to emulate our surroundings**

#### **Humanity's natural desire to hide:**

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

<sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

<sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." –*Genesis 3:6-10*

*"I endeavored to renounce society, that I might avoid temptation... But it was a poor religion; it left me in many respects under the power of sin, and, so far as it prevailed, only tended to make me gloomy, stupid, unsociable, and useless." – John Newton*

#### **Where are you hiding?**

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

– Colossians 3:1-3

#### **1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1**

<sup>31</sup> So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

<sup>32</sup> Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— <sup>33</sup> even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. <sup>11:1</sup> Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

### **What is Paul saying to spiritual chameleons everywhere?**

Mimic me as I mimic Jesus.

## **Practical Ideas For Standing Out (*against the backdrop of the world*) and Blending In (*with the grace of Jesus*)**

### **Stay connected**

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. –*John 15:5-8*

### **Live and love the way Jesus lived and loved**

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. –*John 15:13-15*

### **Expect some resistance and respond with grace**

Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. <sup>21</sup>They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. <sup>22</sup>If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup>Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. –*John 15:20-23*

### **Rest easy**

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." –*John 16:33*

### **Know Jesus**

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. –*John 17:3*

### **Next Step: Baptism**

If you've made the decision to follow Jesus, step out from the crowd by being baptized next weekend. Baptism classes are after services this weekend. Details in today's program, at the Connection Point, or in CTK Life.

### **Small Group Questions**

- 1) Have you ever found yourself being influenced by The Chameleon Effect? Share your story?
- 2) In which environment (work, school, home, etc.) are you most tempted to just blend in with the surroundings for the sake of your own survival?
- 3) If we truly want to take on the mannerisms of Jesus and be hidden with Christ in God, how do we do that? What steps are you taking to develop your family resemblance with Jesus? How do you stay connected to "the vine?"
- 4) Honest moment: what about yourself would you not want someone to imitate?
- 5) Have you ever been hated or shunned for loving Jesus? What did you do? Read John 16:33 for encouragement!
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?