

Black, White, Gray and Red

March 4, 2018

Thank you so much for choosing to worship with us today. We are thrilled that you are here!

Do you find yourself looking for a Christian check-off list that will create some sort of assurance and control that you are doing it right? Do you look for the 'thou shall not' and 'thou shall do' and the book, chapter, and verse to support it? Is everything based on following a prescribed form?

As I read the Old Testament, I see a very strict set of guidelines that were given to the Israelites as the way to be pleasing to God. Things were described in specific detail. With very few exceptions, it was a very black and white existence.

In the New Testament, God introduced His Son to the world through a virgin in Bethlehem and shook up the whole thing. While Jesus participated in the traditions of his heritage, he was also ringing in the Kingdom of Heaven/God in a fresh way. In doing so, much of the black and white of the old law became a mostly gray existence.

When Jesus fully ushered in a new way with His death, burial and resurrection on the cross things took on a new view. The truth of scripture was fulfilled in Him and he became the avenue to be pleasing to God. In John 14 he stated that he was "the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to God except through Him." And he shed his blood to make that happen. In doing so, the way became red.

There are some black and white things. God is God. Jesus is the only way. The Gospel. Love God. Love others. Baptism and the Lord's supper are essential.

There are lots of gray things. Worship styles. Serving opportunities. Buildings. Fellowship. Mission methods. Use of gifts. Community outreach.

It is all covered in red. Jesus died for the world and everything we do is measured against Him. Relationship with Him and others is through His blood.

Share Jesus with your world today!

All Things for Christ,
Michael