Approved In Christ
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I. Approval
   A. Desired by all people
      We seek approval from:
      1. Father, mother
      2. Teacher
      3. Employer, etc.
   B. If not on right foundation, we can be manipulated

II. Secure Way To Enjoy Approval
   A. Finding approval from God in Christ (Rom. 16:10)
      1. Because we are in Christ, God approves us
      2. Nothing else will gain God’s approval
      3. To enjoy God’s approval should be our first priority

III. How To Be In Christ
   A. Sovereign act of God
      1. New creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17)
      2. Past is done away with
         a. Corruption is irreversible
         b. Old man must be crucified
   B. Identification
      The cross is a 2-way identification
      1. Jesus identified with our sin and guilt
      2. We identify ourselves with Jesus
         a. When He died, I died (Gal. 2:19–20)
         b. Buried with Him in baptism (Col. 2:12)
         c. Alive, resurrected and enthroned with Christ (Eph. 2:4–6)
   C. How to remain in Christ
      By obedience we abide (John 15:9–10)
      1. In small things and great things
      2. Know difference between important and unimportant
   D. Follow the pattern of Jesus
      1. Never take initiative out of God’s hands (John 5:19)
      2. We can do nothing of ourselves
      3. Don’t do more than God asks
      4. What God the Father gives is decisive (John 10:29)
   E. Keep Jesus head (Eph. 1:22)
      1. Jesus is to be head and initiator of everything in the Church
      2. Cross misplaced
      3. Jesus displaced
      4. Are we prepared to make Him head?

Application: Make a decision to give the initiative back to God.

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