

make room for growth



Sermon by Kene Izuchukwu

¹³ Instead of the thornbush **will grow**
the juniper, and instead of briars **the**
myrtle will grow. This will be for the
Lord's renown, for **an everlasting**
sign, that will endure forever."

Isaiah 55:13

MAKE ROOM FOR GROWTH



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Brier

Myrtle



MAKE ROOM FOR GROWTH

1. MAKE ROOM **IN YOUR LIFE**
2. MAKE ROOM **IN THE CHURCH**
3. MAKE ROOM **IN YOUR HEART**



Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry.

Col 3:1-5 (NIV)



πάθος

(Pathos)

that which is endured or
experienced, suffering

Syncretism

The combining and blending of different beliefs and practices of several originally distinct traditions and philosophies, especially through religion



QUESTION(S) TO CONSIDER

1. When people look at your life, do they see Christ?
2. Is it immediately obvious to yourself and to others that you have been raised with Christ?



You will never be able to fit God into your life, instead you must **make Him the priority of your life.**

Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Col 3:6–11 (NIV)

The extremes of ethnocentrism and nationalism have no place for those in Christ...

Vince Bantu "A Multitude of All Peoples," 2020, 162

Beverly Daniel Tatum, "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? and Other Conversations About Race, 1997, 65.

Believers must also be wary of the opposite extreme of leaving no room for biblical expressions of cultural pride.

Vince Bantu "A Multitude of All Peoples," 2020, 162

Beverly Daniel Tatum, "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? and Other Conversations About Race, 1997, 65.

QUESTION(S) TO CONSIDER

1. Will you make room in the church for those who do not look like you, talk like you, or share the same cultural expressions of faith as you do, especially when it's inconvenient?



“It is imperative for Christians who come from cultures where Christianity is culturally pervasive to give space for believers who experience cultural alienation from the gospel.”

Vince Bantu

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Col 3:12–14 (NIV)

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...

Mat 5:43-44 (NIV)

Who is my Enemy?

- Someone who wishes or works against what you believe
- Someone who disagrees with your perspective
- Those whom you've lost respect for



You must **increase your capacity to love**

ACTION STEPS

1. Make room in your schedule
2. Meet someone new who is unlike you
3. Find someone who you disagree with and show them love

