

Colossians 3:1-17 **Correct Focus of a New Life in Christ**

Seek the things which are above

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Put to death the things of the flesh

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

Put on the New Man

10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Seek the things which are above [Colossians 3:1-4]

- ✚ Paul spoke of the change portrayed by Baptism in which a believer is dead to sin, buried with Christ in Baptism, and raised to a new life in Christ. [Colossians 2:12-13, Romans 6:4]
- ✚ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. [Colossians 3:1]
 - ✧ The new life in Christ requires a deliberate choice in our focus and attention.
 - ✧ Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. [Colossians 3:2]
 - ✧ We must consider ourselves to have died, and our life is hidden with Christ in God. [Colossians 3:3]
 - ✧ From the vantage point of Heaven, we must perceive our life as God sees it, and our focus as He desires.
 - ✧ Then we have the assurance, that, When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. [Colossians 3:4]

Put to death the things of the flesh [Colossians 3:5-9]

- ✠ Our responsibilities are to make choices pleasing to God.
 - ✧ Therefore put to death your earthly tendencies: **fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.** [Colossians 3:5]
 - ✧ It is interesting to see that the desires of the flesh are equated with idolatry.
 - ✧ These are the things that bring the Wrath of God upon the disobedient. [Leviticus 18:1-30, Mark 7:20-23, Romans 1:18-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Ephesians 5:3-5, James 4:1-4, 1 John 2:15-17, Revelation 21:8, 22:15]
 - ✧ These are the things believers did before they believed the Gospel.
 - ✧ Put off the old man with his deeds, **anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.**
 - ✧ Do not lie to one another.
 - ✧ All these things must be avoided.

Put on the New Man [Colossians 3:10-17]

- ✠ The New Man is described as one who is **renewed in knowledge** according to the image of God, where there is no partiality:
 - ✧ There is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but **Christ is all and in all.** [Colossians 3:11, Galatians 3:26-28]
- ✠ The Elect of God, holy and beloved, are called to choose the good and righteousness.
 - ✧ Put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.
 - ✧ Bear (be patient) with one another, and forgiving one another.
 - ✧ If anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.
 - ✧ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.
 - ✧ Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.
 - ✧ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.
 - ✧ Teach and admonish one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
 - ✧ Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.