

Lent Week 2 Colossians 3:1-17

CONTEXT:

- *written during one of Paul's many imprisonments for announcing Jesus as King.
- *addressed to a group of people that he had never met and a community that he didn't start.
- *started by a coworker of Paul's named Epaphras, who was from Colossae.
- *Epaphras visits Paul in prison and updated him on how well the Colossians were doing overall.
- *He had also mentioned some of the cultural pressures that were tempting them to turn away from Jesus. Paul wrote this letter to **encourage** the Colossians, **address the issues** Epaphras had raised, and **challenge them to a greater devotion to Jesus**.
- *opening focuses on Jesus as the exalted Messiah, followed by Paul's description of his suffering in prison for the Messiah.
- *Paul addresses the pressures tempting them to turn away from Jesus. In chapters 3-4, Paul explores the new way of life that Jesus' resurrection has opened up for them.

> THE BIG IDEA: No part of human existence remains untouched by the loving, liberating rule of the risen Jesus. **We are invited to live a new-creation life here and now because the new creation began arriving when Jesus rose from the dead.**

> **Read Colossians 3:1-17 (NLT version all the way through.**

Read, Focus & Discuss: 3:1-4

v.1 What are we to seek as those who have been raised with Christ? (Put that into non-Christian language) **"raised with Christ"**, (Colossians 2:12 states that believers are **buried with Christ in baptism and raised with Him to a new life through faith in the power of God**, who raised Jesus from the dead

Who is above? Where is he seated? (Explain "seated")

v.2 What are we NOT to set our minds on? (Our priorities. Rather than making plans & decisions for our life and THEN asking Jesus to join us, our focus should first & foremost be Jesus. Our life "ordered" around him first.

> MAIN POINT v.1-2 : **Because you belong to Christ and share in His new life, focus your thoughts, priorities, and desires on the things of heaven rather than getting consumed by the temporary things of this world.**

v.3-4 **"For you died..."** when someone chooses to follow Jesus, their **old way of living—sinful habits and selfish choices—no longer controls them**. (Leave your old life behind).

"...your life is now hidden with Christ in God." Your real life is now **safe with Jesus**. Your identity isn't based on popularity, money, accomplishments, or what others think. Your life is connected to Jesus, and **God is protecting and shaping it**.

"When Christ...appears..." One day Jesus will return. Right now we follow Him by faith, but **one day everyone will clearly see Him**. **"...then you also will appear with Him in glory."**

When Jesus comes back, people who follow Him will **share in His victory and glory**. **God will show that they truly belong to Him**.

MAIN POINT v.3-4: **When you follow Jesus, your old life is gone, your real life is safely connected to Him now, and one day everyone will see that you belong to Him.**

Focus & Discuss: 3:5-10

v.5 What are we to put to death as those who have died & been raised to Christ? “What is earthly among you” Explain. (sinful, earthly things lurking within you) Actively remove sinful behaviors from your life.

v.6 What does verse 6 mean? Paul is saying that the sinful behaviors are **serious**. Because God is holy and just, He cannot ignore sin forever. One day God will deal with it and bring justice. So the warning is: **sin has real consequences**, and God will not pretend it doesn't matter.

v.7-8 What must we now put away - (list from v.) **Leave the old life behind:** Those behaviors belonged to who you used to be, not who you are now.

v.9-10 Why are we to put away sin? “Put on the self” **Live out your new self:** Stop lying and putting on old habits because God has given you a **new nature that is being renewed to become more like Him.**

Because Jesus gave you a new life, stop living like the old you and start becoming more like the God who created you.

Focus & Discuss 3:11-17

v.11 – A new kind of community: In Christ, old divisions no longer define people.

vv.12 – What are we to put on as God's chosen ones? LIST

v.13 What does loving one another look like in practice and WHY must we do this? READ THE VERSE

v.14 Put on Christlike character: Verse 12 tells us what these qualities look like. Also, fruit of the spirit

vv.15–16 – Let Christ lead your heart and mind: His peace rules your heart and His Word fills your life. (Goes back to verses 1-2)

v.17 – Honor Jesus in everything: Every action and word should represent Him.

Because Jesus has given you a new life and a new family, live every day with His character, His peace, His Word, and His love guiding everything you do.