

Colossians 3:1–25

Living the Risen Life in Christ

I. A New Position, A New Pursuit

Colossians 3:1–4 (NKJV)

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

Paul begins with a powerful reminder of the believer’s new position. Because we have been raised with Christ, our life now belongs to a different realm. We are no longer bound to the rudiments of this world or to religious systems built on external rules. Our life is now anchored in Christ, who reigns at the right hand of God.

This does not mean withdrawal from daily responsibilities, but a reorientation of priorities. What controls the heart will ultimately shape the life. To set the mind on things above is to live with eternal values governing earthly decisions.

Paul then makes a defining statement: **“Christ who is our life.”** Christianity is not merely something Christ gives us; it is Christ Himself living in and through us. When He returns in glory, those who belong to Him will share in that glory.

Practical Application

- Ask honestly what occupies your thoughts, ambitions, and affections.
- Measure your priorities by eternity, not by temporary gain.

II. Putting to Death the Old Life

Colossians 3:5–7 (NKJV)

“Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

Because believers have died with Christ, they are called to actively put to death sinful practices. Paul is not teaching legalism or self-righteous effort. Rather, he is calling believers to live consistently with who they already are in Christ.

Paul reminds us that these sins once characterized our former life. But that life has been renounced. God’s wrath comes upon persistent rebellion, and grace must never be used as an excuse to continue in sin.

Salvation produces transformation. A faith that leaves the old life untouched is not biblical faith.

Practical Application

- Identify areas where old habits still exert influence.
- Bring them honestly before God and yield them to the transforming power of Christ.

III. Putting Off the Old Man, Putting On the New

Colossians 3:8–11 (NKJV)

“But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another...”

Paul moves from outward acts to inward attitudes. The new life in Christ reshapes speech, emotions, and relationships. The old self has been put off, and the new self is being renewed in the image of the Creator.

In Christ, all human distinctions that divide—ethnic, social, or religious—lose their power. **“Christ is all and in all.”** The ground is level at the foot of the cross.

Practical Application

- Examine your words and reactions; they reveal the heart.
- Let Christ define your identity more than culture, status, or background.

IV. Clothing Ourselves with Christlike Character

Colossians 3:12–14 (NKJV)

“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering...”

Believers are not only called to put off sin but to put on Christlike virtues. Forgiveness stands at the center of this new life. We forgive because we have been forgiven.

Above all, love binds everything together in spiritual completeness. Love is not sentiment; it is a deliberate commitment to reflect the grace we have received in Christ.

Practical Application

- Ask whether your relationships reflect Christ’s patience and forgiveness.
- Choose love as an act of obedience, not merely a feeling.

V. Christ Ruling the Heart and the Word Filling the Life

Colossians 3:15–17 (NKJV)

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”

God’s peace is meant to govern the believer’s heart like an umpire, guiding decisions and attitudes. The Word of Christ is to dwell richly, shaping worship, instruction, and daily conduct.

Everything—words and actions alike—is to be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, with gratitude toward God.

Practical Application

- Allow Scripture to shape your thinking, not merely inform it.
- Let thankfulness guard your heart against anxiety and bitterness.

VI. Christ in the Home

Colossians 3:18–21 (NKJV)

Paul applies the risen life to the most practical setting: the home.

- Wives are called to submit to their husbands in a way that honors the Lord.
- Husbands are commanded to love their wives and not become harsh or bitter.
- Children are instructed to obey their parents, which pleases God.
- Fathers are warned not to discourage their children through unreasonable demands.

God’s design for the family is rooted in love, security, and mutual responsibility. When Christ rules the heart, it transforms the home.

Practical Application

- Ask whether your family relationships reflect Christ’s love and humility.
- Seek God’s grace to live out these roles faithfully.

VII. Christ in the Workplace

Colossians 3:22–25 (NKJV)

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”

Paul reminds believers that even ordinary labor becomes sacred when done unto the Lord. Work is not merely a means of income; it is a sphere of service to Christ.

Integrity, diligence, and joy in work become powerful testimonies. God sees every act, and He rewards faithfulness. At the same time, wrongdoing is never overlooked, for God shows no partiality.

Practical Application

- Treat your work as service to Christ, not merely to people.
- Let your attitude open doors for witness and testimony.

Final Challenge for Believers

If Christ is truly your life, then your daily conduct should increasingly reflect His character. Do not settle for a faith that remains theoretical. Live the risen life—putting off the old, putting on the new, and allowing Christ to rule every area of your life.

Invitation to Non-Believers

Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross to forgive your sins. God raised Him from the dead, declaring Him to be God, Savior, and Lord. New life is not found in religion, self-effort, or moral reform, but in Christ alone.

Turn to Him in faith. Trust in His finished work. Receive forgiveness, new life, and the hope of glory through Jesus Christ.