

Colossians 3-4 • Setting our minds on things above

Colossians 3:1-17

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is 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 what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness,

For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ How does someone come to be “raised with Christ” (3:1)?
- ▶ In your own words, what does it mean to “seek the things that are above” (3:1)? Is that always easy? Why should we even care to do that?
- ▶ We “set” all sorts of things in life, right? Can you think of any examples? So what does it mean in everyday terms to “set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (3:2)?
- ▶ Colossians 3:3-4 seems to be really important news. What is the Holy Spirit communicating in those verses?
- ▶ When you look at the things we are to “put to death” as followers of Jesus (3:5-9), what do they all have in common? Why “must” we put them all away? What’s the big deal?

humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 4:2-6

² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ What do you think Paul means when he describes Christians as “God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved” (3:12)?

- ▶ Looking at the list of things we should “put on” (3:12-14), how would you summarize it? And how do we go about “putting on” those things?

- ▶ Forgiving other people isn’t always easy. What do we need to remember, according to 3:13?

- ▶ What is “the peace of Christ” (3:15)? What impact can it have on our hearts?

- ▶ Let’s take a careful look together at 3:17. That sounds really important. How would you rephrase the big idea in your own words?

- ▶ **Colossians 4:2-6** contains a variety of practical encouragements. What stands out to you about the opportunities we all have this week to shine as lights in this world?