

CHRIST IS YOUR LIFE

COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:1-17 ESV

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, 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.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What demonstrates your conviction that following Jesus is worth it?

SERMON RECAP

Following Jesus with your lives is worth it!

- When you're saved by Jesus, He becomes your life, the one whom your entire life is oriented around, and He gives you everything you need to live today in light of your new and eternal reality.

Jesus has become your life because:

He has raised you to new life. (vs. 1)	He has forgiven you from your sin. (vs. 13)
Your life is now hidden in Christ. (vs. 3)	You are loved by God. (vs. 12)
You are being renewed by God. (vs. 10)	You will appear with Christ in glory. (vs. 4)
You will enjoy Jesus for all eternity. (vs. 4)	

Four things God provides His people:

1. The Power of God – Walk in the power of God!
2. The Promises of God – Saturate your mind with God's Word!
3. The Peace of God – Rest in God's perfect peace!
4. The People of God – Pursue God's people!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. Read Colossians 3:1-17 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
 - To whom and to where does Paul point in verses 1-4?
 - What does Paul say that you should “put to death,” “put away,” and “put off” in verses 5-11?
 - What does Paul say that you should “put on” in verses 12-15 and how in verses 16-17?
 - How would you summarize Colossians 3:1-17 in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. You are raised to new life (Colossians 3:1). (See 2 Corinthians 5:17) What does it mean to be and to live as a new creation?
2. Your sins are forgiven (Colossians 3:13). (See Colossians 2:13-14) What does it mean to be forgiven and to forgive others in the same way?
3. You are hidden with Christ (Colossians 3:3)? (See Colossians 1:27b) What does it mean to be united with Christ?
4. God loves you (Colossians 3:12). What does it mean that you are loved (beloved) by God?
5. You are being renewed (Colossians 3:10). If you are already a new creation, why does God continue to renew you? How will you ultimately be renewed? (See 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
6. You will be glorified with Christ (Colossians 3:4). What will it mean to live in glory with no sin and no suffering?
7. You will enjoy Jesus forever (Colossians 3:4). How is the culmination of our faith not a place, or a state of being, but a Person?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Jesus must capture your heart.
 - How does your life demonstrate that Jesus truly has your heart, or are other physical or material things blocking Him out?
 - If you were to step back and look at how you spend your time, your money, and what occupies your thought life, what would that reveal about what is at the center of your life?
 - What one thing in your life, if it was taken away, would cause you to completely fall apart?
 - When someone looks at you, how can they tell that you are clothed by, with, and in Jesus?
 - What unmet expectations, temptation, suffering, and difficult circumstances cause you to doubt God's goodness and purposes?
2. You have the power and the promises of God.
 - What does it mean to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and how does God's power free you to do so?
 - How is your scriptural life? How much time are you spending to saturate yourself with God's Word? How could you do better?
3. You have the peace and the people of God.
 - How well do you really lean into God for peace and how could you do this better?
 - How are God's people (your Church Group) helping you to walk more closely with the Lord? Where do you need more help? How can you more diligently pursue God's people? How is Christ your life?

LEADER NOTES

- Global Outreach Prayer Guide - Feel free to use the Global Outreach Prayer guide to pray for those overseas would know that Christ can be their life. You can view the guide [here](#)
- Next Church Family Meeting - Sunday, September 24th. If you have any questions about this meeting, make sure to check out the email from David that came out last weekend, or reach out to the leadership of your location. We'll share more information next Sunday.
- Next Membership Orientation - If any of your group members have not yet pursued membership, their next opportunity will be on Sunday, October 1st from 1-3pm in room 2400.