

Reality

Colossians 3:1-3 (NLT)

1 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. 3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:1-3 (TPT)

1 Christ's resurrection is your resurrection too. This is why we are to yearn for all that is above, for that's where Christ sits enthroned at the place of all power, honor, and authority! 2 Yes, feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm and fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with the distractions of the natural realm. 3 Your crucifixion with Christ has severed the tie to this life, and now your true life is hidden away in God in Christ.

- What is more REAL in your life? Circumstances, challenges or God's statements about you and your life?
 - What are the CORE PRINCIPLES that you live from? Being the best person you can be and having high moral standards? Or submitting to the Lordship of Christ and letting Him live through us?
 - How do you LIVE OUT YOUR FAITH on a daily basis? Do you require yourself and others to act from your practiced traditions?
- I. We all need to determine to live our redeemed life from a solid place of REALITY...the reality of WHO WE ARE THROUGH CHRIST!
- A. In order to do this, we must have an awareness of what The Lord says about us! Who He says we are! How we are to live!

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1. The first step in this way of life is...
2. Submitting ourselves to The Lord and His design for life!
3. Not conforming to the world or the standards and behavior of the world!

4. Allowing transformation of our lives to come from The Lord!
5. This is not a mental decision to live differently, but rather a genuine transformation!

B. HOW does this happen? By renewing our minds!

1. How we think actually directs our lives and how we respond to the world around us!

Philippians 4:6-9 (TPT)

6 Don't be pulled in different directions or worried about a thing. Be saturated in prayer throughout each day, offering your faith-filled requests before God with overflowing gratitude. Tell him every detail of your life, 7 then God's wonderful peace that transcends human understanding, will make the answers known to you through Jesus Christ. 8 So keep your thoughts continually fixed on all that is authentic and real, honorable and admirable, beautiful and respectful, pure and holy, merciful and kind. And fasten your thoughts on every glorious work of God, praising him always. 9 Follow the example of all that we have imparted to you and the God of peace will be with you in all things.

2. In short, focus on what is REAL!
3. This IS NOT just "positive thinking" as we have all heard about!
4. This is letting God define your life, your circumstances and your focus in life!

C. This is about TRANSFORMATION!

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (NLT)

16 But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

II. Remember, we have died...and raised to newness of life!

A. The true question is what is shaping you?

1. We are all being shaped by something. Life, circumstances, other people, experiences, etc.
2. The reality of the Christian faith is COME, SUBMIT, DIE and be TRANSFORMED!

3. Some people come, but don't submit!
 4. Some even come and submit but never really die!
 5. Some even come, submit and die but never allow the transforming power of God's Spirit to change them!
- B. There are "5 Realities" in this passage in Colossians I want us to see! These "realities" will help us in this transformation process!
1. The reality of God! I am "with Christ in God"! This is real!
 2. Christ is seated at God's "right hand" in a place of authority. That means MY SAVIOR "boss of creation!" This is real!

1 Peter 3:22 (NLT)

22 Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority.

3. As a believer, my death is behind me! I have already died! Now, I am raised in newness of life! This is real!

Colossians 2:12 (NLT)

12 For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

4. THEN, we see a tremendous truth in verse 4! This is real!

Colossians 3:4 (NLT)

4 And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

- a) Your true redeemed life may be somewhat hidden now.
- b) You may not see the reality of who you truly are now.
- c) Your circumstances may seem bigger than your victory now.
- d) BUT...we must not let any of these things change our REALTY!

5. The last point of reality is that our hiddenness in God is the power from which we let our "light shine" into the world around us!

- Who or what have you allowed to define your reality? Let the One Who has ALL POWER AND AUTHORITY define your reality!

