

The Way Things Ought To Be
Colossians 3:1-17

3 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.** **4** And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshipping the things of this world. **6** Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. **7 You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world.** **8** But now is the time to **get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.**

9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. **10 Put on your new nature**, and be renewed as you **learn to know your Creator and become like him.** **11** In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must **clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.** **13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you.** Remember, the Lord forgave you, so **you must forgive others.** **14** Above all, **clothe yourselves with love**, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. **15** And **let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts.** For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. **Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives.** Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. **17** And whatever you do or say, **do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

- Notice what the “context” of this passage is: **The behavior of a Christian.**
- The majority, but not all, of the behavioral issues I have seen and counseled in ministry come from the “**residue**” of the **old sin nature!**
- We need to actively and intently strive to be who we are because of and in Christ!

I. Let’s act like who God through Christ has made us! Don’t cheapen the sacrifice of Jesus!

A. We have been “raised with Christ”. (verse 1)

1. The Greek word here carries the meaning of:

- a. The power to do it.
- b. NOT an ethical decision to do it!

2. Paul told the Romans in 1:16, that the Gospel was the **POWER** of God unto salvation!

16 For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.

3. Paul has previously told the Christians in Colossee in 1:13 that we have been removed from the **POWER** of darkness!

13 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son,

4. Peter also talks about this **POWER** in II Peter 1:3.

3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

B. God provides the power to “break free”, but then tells us to “walk free”. He says “seek those things which are above.” (Col. 3:1b)

1. The word “seek” means: to seek to worship, to desire, to endeavor.
2. It’s the principle of James 4:8. “Draw near” and receive the power to be cleansed!

8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

II. How?? Set your mind / affections/ sights on godly things!
(Col. 3:1)

A. “Set your mind or affections” is a phrase that comes from one single Greek word. It means:

1. To exercise our minds.
2. To entertain ourselves.
3. Have an opinion.
4. To be predisposed with.
5. To interest oneself.
6. To savor.
7. Extending to the whole region of thought and desire.

B. By my own decision and will, I can allow God’s ability or disallow God’s ability to work in me!

1. It all depends on where I choose to sit! Above or below.
2. Please understand, this is only the “beginning” of my behavioral change. The “process” may be quite difficult and quite a journey!
3. Phil. 2:12 speaks of this process. Verse 13-“...it is God who works in you...” (NIV)

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—

continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

4. Amp: “work out – cultivate, carry out to the goal and fully complete – your own salvation with reverence and awe...”
5. Amp: “It is God – energizing and creating in you the power and desire...”

C. Notice the results of the opposite response. Phil. 3:18-19

18 For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. **19** They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth.

D. This works because there is NEW LIFE in Christ! Col. 3:1

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.

1. BUT, we have to die everyday! Romans 6:11

So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

2. We present ourselves as “living sacrifices”...who can crawl off of the altar at will. Rom. 12:1-2

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. **2** Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

III. Put off and put on!

A. According to God, He enables us to do what He asks us to do!

1. Put off: Col. 3: 8-10

8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. **9** Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. **10** Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him

2. Put on: Col. 3:14-15

14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

B. How? Col. 3:16

16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts

C. Live a life of EXCELLENCE! Col. 3:17

17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.