

THE LIFE OF THE NEW SELF

(Colossians 3:1–11)

WHAT IS TRUE, AND WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO? ¹

Believers have been given new life, and as such, they ought to center their attention exclusively on Jesus Christ, the glorified One who will be revealed at the end of times. Being united with Him, believers are called to lead lives in a community fellowship rooted in nothing but Christ Himself, unaffected by worldly cravings and sinful desires.

1.) Christian: Keep on Seeking the Risen Christ (v. 1–4) ¹

- Having been **raised** up with Him, seek the things **above** (v. 1)
- Having **died** with Him, do not focus on the things **below** (v. 2–3)
- Having been **hidden** with Him, you will be **revealed** in glory (v. 3-4)

2.) Christian: Take Off the Old Humanity (v. 5–11) ¹

- Put to **death** the earthly nature (v. 5–8)
 - Do not live as you did in the past, under God's **wrath** (v. 5–6)
 - Reject evil and disobedient sins of **desire** and **speech** (v. 7–8)
- Resist living your new life in **falsehood** (v. 9-11)
 - **Reject** evil and disobedient sins of desire; do not lie (v. 9)
 - Because you **set aside** the old self and have put on the new nature of Christ, the One who created you (v. 9–10)
 - Your new nature is defined in a **community** in Christ (v. 11)

APPLICATION: ²

Christians have one calling and two venues, one purpose, and two passports. We are to both love God with our heart and soul and love our neighbor as ourselves. And we do that here and now, where we are, with the life God has given us—knowing one day our entry into heaven is secure. This lifelong calling requires us to set our minds on Christ daily. That means:

- We regard money as a means to do God's will, not merely to accumulate or to use for our own pleasure;
- We find spouses who share our desire to seek Christ and the things above;
- We do not set our hearts on clothes, cars, and entertainment options;
- We prepare ourselves and take seriously our particular area of service, whether it's ministry, agriculture, medical school, musical performance, or other areas;
- We must do our best for Christ.

¹ David Pao, Colossians and Philemon. Zondervan Commentary on the New Testament: (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012), 210.

² Bruce Barton and Philip Comfort, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon. Life Application Bible Commentary, (Wheaton: Tyndale, 1995), 203.