

Colossians 3:1-14

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now 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, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.



Be Transformed: HEART

Colossians 3:1-14

5/12/2019

REAL & LASTING CHANGE

1. The gospel brings **INEVITABLE**, and **RADICAL** change.
 - A change at this level is a change of **IDENTITY**.
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2. The gospel method for radical change:
 - **FIRST**, you must **DIG DOWN**.
 - An evil desire can be an **OVER** desire, or an excessive desire for something good.

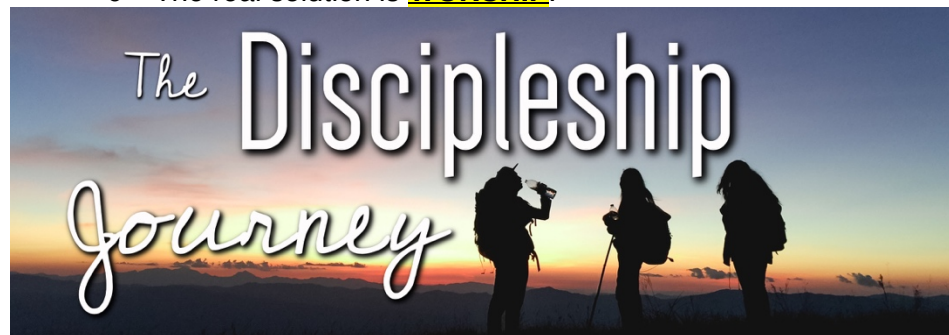
A HEART MONITOR

- **ANXIETY** is idolatry mapped onto the future.
- **GUILT** is idolatry mapped onto the past.
- **ANGER** and bitterness are idolatry mapped onto the present.

SECOND, you must **LOOK UP**.

3. Why it works:

- The real solution is **WORSHIP**.



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GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

To catch the weekend message, go to the MTC App, or MissionTrailsChurch.com.

GETTING STARTED

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, **was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged,**

You can listen to today's message on the **MTC App** or at **MissionTrailsChurch.com**.

inspired or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

2. Read Colossians 3:1-4

How do you understand how it is that a Christian has “died” with Christ and been “raised” with Christ?

3. Read Colossians 3:5-9

How do you think you can “put to death” the things that used to belong to your “earthly nature”?

4. Read Colossians 3:12-14

How can you “put on” the kinds of things described in these verses?

GETTING PERSONAL

5. When you think about anxiety (future), guilt (past) and anger and bitterness (present), what do they reveal to you about the things in your life that you love too much, or love in the wrong order?

Or, consider it this way... what things make you the most anxious, the most guilty, the most angry? Why do you think that is?

6. If one of the main ways that we “set our hearts on things above” (v. 1) is through WORSHIP, then what are several different ways that you can worship God, beyond just what you do on Sunday morning at church?

BRINGING IT HOME

If you want, you can finish by reading aloud a section of the sermon that got chopped on Sunday for time’s sake. And then let this lead you into a time of prayer for one another, and for God’s work in your hearts. Consider this an aerial overview of the journey of the heart as described in scripture.

The right attitude of the heart begins with its being broken or crushed: *My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise (Psalm 51:17)*. That’s a symbol of humility, a *broken heart*, a *broken spirit*. This brokenness is necessary because it is the hard or stony heart that does not submit to the will of God.

¹⁹ *I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 11:19)*. You see, God knows the heart of each person, and isn’t deceived by outward appearances: *The Lord does not*

look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). But regardless of that, it is still the right thing to pray for God to search and know our heart: *Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. (Psalm 139:23)*. And we also ask him to make our hearts clean: *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)*. For those whose hearts are wicked, dead, and made of stone, a new heart must be what we are after. It’s too broken to be fixed. It must be replaced – *Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. ³¹ Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? (Ezekiel 18:30-31)*. When this happens, it means that God’s ways and God’s law are no longer just an external thing, but that that are written on your heart... that Christ’s righteousness gets credited to you, and you are made clean: *“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people,(Jeremiah 31:33)*. This is why the heart, the spring and fountainhead of all our desires, must be guarded – *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it – (Proverbs 4:23)*. It is only the pure in heart who will see God: *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God – (Matthew 5:8)*. But how can we, stony-hearted ones, become pure? By faith in Christ alone! His perfect life for our corrupted one. And when Christ dwells in our heart by faith, this is what enables us to fully understand the love of God – ¹⁶ *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ – (Ephesians 3:16-18)*.

PRAY TOGETHER