

# Living the New Life

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6-30-2024

Colossians 3:1-4 (NLT) 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. <sup>2</sup> Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. <sup>5</sup> So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you.

Paul is transitioning from the earlier portion in chapters one and two, in which he explains Christ and the gospel, to an exhortation on how the ideas of faith are translated into corresponding behavior and conduct.

He doesn't insist on people walking a new life until they have understood what it means to be a new person in Christ. If they haven't been changed on the inside, then all their effort to live godly will fall short.

Colossians 2:23 (NLT) These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires.

The call is not to live a moral life by adopting new disciplines and making every effort to please God, but to learn to live from the new life.

Inside change leads to new way of living and thinking.

Paul writes, since you have been raised to a new life with Christ, then let it be seen in the way you live your life from the inside out.

When Christ is the source of our life, new aspirations and affections emerge.

## **New aspirations**

As humans we born to aspire (desire and pursue). When we experience the power of the gospel and Christ makes residence in us, we aspire heavenly things.

Colossians 3:1 (NLT) Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven.

(AMP) Therefore if you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, sharing in His resurrection from the dead], keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Our new desire and pursuit are for holiness, devotion, love and self-sacrifice.

### **New affections**

Colossians 3:2 (NLT) Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

(KJV) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

(APM) Set your mind and keep focused habitually on the things above [the heavenly things], not on things that are on the earth [which have only temporal value].

When we have truly been impacted by the gospel, putting our faith in Christ as Savior and Lord our desires and affections should change.

Because of our love and affection for God and the indwelling power of Christ we should aspire and seek to put to death the sinful things that lurk in our thoughts and flesh.

Colossians 3:6a (NLT) So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you.

(CEB) So put to death the parts of your life that belong to the earth...

(KJV) Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth...

Mortify – To put to death. Make a corpse of.

The Greek tense in this command suggests a decisive action, as if Paul said, “Mortify it! Do it now! Do it purposefully!”

Although we no longer have a sinful nature, as it was cut off, we do live in human flesh with years of habits and thoughts that governed our lives.

Paul is saying that there are habits and mindset that needs to be put to death and that we have been elected to do the killing!

What should we be putting to death? Paul groups these sins into two groups:

#### **The sensual sins and the social sins.**

- Sensual Sins are those things that appeal to the senses. The sins of pleasure!

Colossians 3:6b (NLT) Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

(AMP) So put to death and deprive of power the evil longings of your earthly body [with its sensual, self-centered instincts] immorality, impurity, sinful passion, evil desire, and greed, which is [a kind of] idolatry [because it replaces your devotion to God].

This is not an exhaustive list, but it is enough for him to get the point across.

Sexual sin and immoral pleasures aren't to be taken lightly or treated with sensitive gloves they are to be executed and cut out of our lives. What we do not cut off eventually master's and destroys us.

Romans 6:12-13 (NLT) Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. <sup>13</sup> Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

Romans 8:12-13 (NLT) Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. <sup>13</sup> For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.

James 1:14-15 (NLT) Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. <sup>15</sup> These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

- Social Sins – Related to our dealing with others.

Colossians 3:8-8 (NLT) But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. <sup>9</sup> Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.

Positionally in Christ, we are no longer under the power of sin and as such we are not to go on living as if we were still under its control.

Romans 6:14-18 (NLT) Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! <sup>16</sup> Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. <sup>17</sup> Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. <sup>18</sup> Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

## **Characteristics of the New Life**

Colossians 3:10 (NLT) Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.

The more you and I learn to know Christ, the more we become like him. You cannot know Him outside the word of God.

Colossians 3:16-17 (NLT) 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. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

(NLT) 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.

The more about Christ we learn the more we are clothed in His likeness.

Colossians 3:12-15 (NLT) Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> 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.

When we placed our faith in Christ we were given a new nature, the old selfish, sinful nature has been cut away. However, the old habits and mindsets that were formed through the years still lurk within us and need to be killed by the renewing of our mind.

Living the new life in a way that honors God is possible because of the work of Christ on the cross and his indwelling presence in us.