

Approximately Expository 35 minutes



“Raised With Christ: Living the New Life”

Opening Prayer:

Father God, we come before You in the mighty name of Jesus. Thank You for Your living Word. Thank You that it speaks to us today just as powerfully as it did when it was first written. Open our hearts. Remove distraction. Convict us where we need conviction. Encourage us where we need strength. Transform us by Your Holy Spirit. And Lord, if anyone is listening that does not know You, draw them to Yourself today. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Historical Setting:

Paul wrote the letter to the Colossians while under house arrest in Rome around A.D. 60-62. The church in Colossae had been started by Epaphras 🙌 **eh-PAF-ruhs or (bed-half-rus)**, not Paul personally. This small church was located in a culturally mixed city in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), influenced by Greek philosophy, Jewish legalism, and mystical spiritual ideas.

In chapter 2, Paul dismantled false teaching. He made it clear: Christ is fully God, and believers are complete in Him.

- Now in chapter 3, Paul shifts from doctrine to duty.
- From belief to behavior.
- From theology to transformation.

🙌 Because when Jesus changes your heart, your life changes.

Colossians 3 answers the question:

If I am complete in Christ, how should I live?

1. Set Your Heart Above (Colossians 3:1-4):

Paul begins: **Colossians 3:1** (NIV)

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”

Notice the word “**since.**”

Not “if.”

👉 If you are a believer, you have been raised with Christ.

Positionally, spiritually, eternally you are alive in Him.

So what do we do?

👉 Set your heart on things above.

Verse 2: **Colossians 3:2** (NIV)

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

This does not mean ignoring responsibilities. It means adjusting viewpoints.

We live on earth.
But we belong to heaven.

We work here.
But we represent there.

Verse 3: **Colossians 3:3** (NIV)

“For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”

The old you died.
The new you is secure in Christ.

And then comes hope:

Colossians 3:3 (NIV) “When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

Jesus is not just part of your life.

👉 He is your life.

2. Put to Death the Old Nature (Colossians 3:5-11):

Because we are raised with Christ, Paul says: **Colossians 3:5** (NIV)

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Notice the seriousness.

- Not manage.
- Not tolerate.
- Put to death.

He lists sins of immorality:

- . Sexual immorality
- . Impurity
- . Lust
- . Evil desires
- . Greed

And he says greed is idolatry.

Why? Because it replaces God with desire.

Verse 6: **Colossians 3:6** (NIV)

“Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.”

Sin is serious.

Grace does not minimize sin.

Grace empowers victory over sin.

Verse 8 shifts to relational sins: **Colossians 3:8** (NIV)⁸ **But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.**

And verse 9: **Colossians 3:9** (NIV)

⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

 Why?

Colossians 3:9 (NIV) **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.**

This is clothing language.

- Take off the old.
- Put on the new.

You are being renewed in knowledge in the image of your Creator.

 In Christ, all walls come down:

Colossians 3:11 (NIV) ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian 🙌 SITH-ee-un, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

In Christ, our identity is no longer racial, social, or cultural.

🙌 It is spiritual.

3. Put On the Character of Christ (Colossians 3:12-14):

Now Paul moves from what to removeto what to wear.

Colossians 3:12 (NIV) ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Stop there.

You are chosen.

Holy.

Dearly loved.

Not because you earned it.

Because of grace.

So what do we put on?

- . Compassion
- . Kindness
- . Humility
- . Gentleness
- . Patience

Verse 13: ***Colossians 3:13*** (NIV) ¹³ ***Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.***

Forgiveness is not optional.

Why?

Vs.13 **“.....Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”**

How did He forgive you?

- Completely.
- Freely.
- Repeatedly.

And then verse 14: **Colossians 3:14** (NIV)

“And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

Love is the belt that holds everything together.

👉 Without love, everything falls apart.

4. Let Christ Rule (Colossians 3:15-17):

Colossians 3:15 (NIV) **¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.**

The word “**rule**” means to act as an umpire.

Let Christ’s peace make the call.

- Are you anxious?
- Confused?
- Restless?

Let His peace govern.

And then: **Colossians 3:16** (NIV) ¹⁶ **Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.**

Dwell richly not occasionally.

- In teaching.
- In admonishing.
- In singing psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.

Worship is teaching theology through music.

Verse 17 summarizes the Christian life:

Colossians 3:17 (NIV)¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

👉 Everything.

- Work.
- Family.
- Conversations.
- Private life.

👉 All in His name.

5. Christ in the Home (Colossians 3:18-21):

Paul now brings Christianity into the home.

Wives:

Colossians 3:18 (NIV)¹⁸ Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

👉 Submission does not mean a wife is beneath her husband.

👉 It means living within the loving order God created for marriage.

Husbands:

Colossians 3:19 (NIV)¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Love sacrificially.

Like Christ loves the church.

Children:

Colossians 3:20 (NIV)²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Fathers:

Colossians 3:21 (NIV)²¹ *Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

Christianity transforms families.

👉 When Christ rules hearts, homes change.

6. Christ in the Workplace (Colossians 3:22–25):

Paul addresses slaves and masters the employment structure of that time.

Colossians 3:23 (NIV)²³ *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,*

You don't ultimately work for a boss.

👉 You work for Jesus.

Verse 24: **Colossians 3:24 (NIV) ²⁴ *since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.***

- Integrity.
- Excellence.
- Faithfulness.

Why?

👉 Because eternity is real. That is Why...

7. Invitation: Have You Been Raised With Christ?

Paul began this chapter with: (Vs.1)

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ...”

But that only applies if you have been born again.

Have you died with Christ?
Have you been raised to new life?

Maybe you've tried religion.
Maybe you've tried cleaning up behavior.
Maybe you've tried rules.

But Colossians chapter 3 is not behavior modification.

👉 It is resurrection living.

- Jesus died for your sins.
- He rose again.
- He defeated death.
- He offers new life.

👉 But you must receive Him.

- Not by church attendance.
- Not by good deeds.
- Not by moral effort.

👉 By repentance and faith.

If you have never surrendered to Christ, this is your moment. Right now... this very moment. If you feel a tugging in your heart that is the Holy Spirit calling you...today is your today...

Pray this sincerely by faith:

“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe You died for my sins and rose again. Forgive me. Make me new. I turn from my old life and surrender to You. Be my Savior. Be my Lord. Raise me to new life. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

If you prayed that from your heart, the Bible says you are raised with Christ.
Congratulations!!!

Conclusion: Live Like the Raised

Colossians 3 teaches us:

- . Set your heart above.
- . Kill the old nature.
- . Put on Christlike character.
- . Let His peace rule.
- . Let His Word dwell richly.
- . Honor Him at home.
- . Serve Him at work.
- . Do everything in His name.

You are not trying to become alive.

You are alive!!!

Let us Pray....

Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank You that we have been raised with Christ. Help us set our hearts above. Give us strength to put sin to death. Clothe us in compassion, humility, and love. Let Your peace rule in our hearts. Let Your Word dwell richly in our lives. Transform our homes, our work, and our witness. And Lord, for those who trusted You today, seal them by Your Holy Spirit and grow them strong. We give You all the glory. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.



Matthew 28:19-20