

Seek First

The Kingdom of God

NEW IDENTITY
Dave Gustavsen

The Chapel
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PERSONAL STUDY _____

Scripture Passage: Colossians 3:1-15

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[a] 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.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS _____

Directions: Use this for your personal devotion time and/or to prepare for your Small Group discussion. Read the passage and record your observations.

1. What is the "big idea" of the passage? _____

2. What main life application question does the passage address/answer? _____

3. What is one way you can apply it this week? _____

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GROUP STUDY

Directions: Use **BOTH** the personal and group questions for your group's discussion.

OPENER – Share with your group something that changed in you after you decided to follow Jesus.

Q1 – Know Who You Are:

- a. What do you usually talk about after introducing yourself to new people? What aspects of your life or identity do you tend to share?
- b. Verse 3 says that our "lives are hidden with Christ." What might this look like in practical terms?
- c. Verse 4 says that Christ is our life. How does that impact the way that we view ourselves?
- d. What is the difference between "setting our hearts on things above" and "setting our minds on things above?"

Q2 – Take Off the Old:

- a. Verse 5 tells us to put to death the things that belong to our earthly nature. What can be so appealing about our old way of life that we want to hold onto it? Why can't we just minimize these behaviors instead of putting them to death completely?
- b. Verse 9 says that we are not to lie any longer. What is so harmful about little white lies?
- c. How does the Gospel change how we view people?

Scripture Passage: Colossians 3:12-17

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.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 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. 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.

Q3 - Put On The New:

- a. What makes the qualities listed in verses 12-14 desirable, especially compared to the negative traits mentioned earlier?
- b. Verse 13 mentions the importance of forgiveness. Why is forgiveness so critical in our lives?
- c. How do we "let the message of Christ live in us richly?"
- d. What does it mean in practical terms to act and speak "in the name of the Lord Jesus"?