

## "Living In Christ"

Colossians 3:1-17

We've been discussing at some length what it means to be "in Christ." **Today: How do I remain in Christ?** (John 15:4)

Typical of Paul's Communication Strategy: 1st Half Doctrine, 2nd Half Practice.

### Ask yourself these questions daily:

#### 1. **Where's my focus?** (i.e, Where do I look?) (1-4)

- A. "If you have been raised up with Christ" to a new life. (Col. 2:10-13)
  - I. Your position now is with Him in Heaven. (Eph. 2:1-2, 4-6)
- B. Notice: We have to "keep seeking" & "set our minds". It's a full-time job.
  - I. Bible Study, Prayer, Worship, Fellowship.
  - II. Watch out that you don't drift (i.e, slow movement away from these).

#### 2. **Am I killing the sin in my life?** (to my old self and sinful ways). (5-9)

- A. If so, I should be doing these things less and less.
- B. "Consider" - "put to death" in the Greek.
  - I. It's a verb; I have to do this with the Holy Spirit's help.
  - II. Do violence to your flesh (spiritually).
    - a.) Crucify it!
- C. The top categories of sin: (or, "Idolatry" vs. 5)
  - I. Immorality (fornication).
  - II. Impurity (akatharsia) - "uncleanness"
  - III. Passion (pathos) - "the condition of your sin-diseased soul"
  - IV. Evil Desire (epithumia) - "your sin-diseased soul in action"
  - V. Greed (covetousness) - usually associated with the love of money.
  - VI. Anger - It's internal; a state of mind.
  - VII. Wrath - It's external; anger manifested.
  - VIII. Malice - Doing evil to others.
  - VIII. Slander - Speaking evil of others.
  - X. Abusive Speech - "foul-mouthed" "filthy" "improper"
  - XI. Lying - speaking the opposite of truth (Satan's native language).

### *All of this is what I'm dying to. Now, what am I living for?*

#### 3. **Am I putting on Christ daily?** (10-17) see 2 Cor. 5:17

- A. "Renewed" - "to make new" "according to the image of Christ."
  - I. It's actually past tense in the Greek. So, it's already happened.
  - II. My part is to come in line with who I am in Christ each day.
- B. What living in Christ looks like:
  - I. Compassion - pity or empathy for those who suffer.
  - II. Kindness - a mellowing of your personality leading to the opposite of harshness and severity. This will be useful rather than harmful to those around you.
  - III. Humility - Lowliness of mind; absolute dependance.
  - IV. Gentleness (meekness) - a condition of mind and heart which demonstrates gentleness, not weakness, but in power. It's being weak even when you could demonstrate strength.
  - V. Patience: (long-suffering) "self-restraint before proceeding to action. The quality of being able to avenge yourself but refraining from doing so.

- VI. Bearing with others & Forgiving- "hold up" towards others' irritations and release them from any wrong they've caused you.
- VII. Love
- VIII. Peace - at the back of peace is "oneness".
- VIII. The Word - Hebrews 4:12
- X. Do all in Jesus' Name - Your faith ought to be public.
- XI. Give Thanks - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Next Week:** Part Two of this Message - How living in Christ will look in our households and in our workplaces.