**Growing in Christ**

*Colossians 3*

Introduction

* Danger of Accepting the “Colossian Heresy.”
  + Philosophy of Men – **2:1-4, 8**
  + Works of merit – **2:16-17**
  + Asceticism (high spiritual and moral state by self-denial/mortification) – **2:20-22**
* These aren’t the answer to a spiritual life. Only Christ is…
  + Philosophy of Men? No. – **2:6-7, 8-10 (In Him…)**
  + Works of merit? No. – **2:11-14** (Circumcision made without hands…)
  + Asceticism? No. – **2:20** (Died with Christ…) **2:23** (no value against indulgence of flesh…)
* Sometimes Christians lose sight of what “spiritual mindedness” is.
  + It’s not found in men.
  + It’s not found in actions.
  + It’s not found in self-denial of lawful things.
    - These are ***false alternatives*** in dealing with sin and becoming spiritually minded.
  + It’s found IN CHRIST!

If (since) you were raised with Him then… **(3:1)**

1. “Seek those things which are above” **(3:1-4)**
2. No doubt of being raised.

* If then – Because you are.
* This is what a Christian does…

1. Seek…

* Desire….

1. Set your mind on…

* Exercise your mind (action, Meditate **– Philippians 4:8**)
* Commit…

1. Life is hidden with Christ…

* ***“It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20).***
* ***“The world does not know us, because it did not know Him” (1 John 3:1).***

1. If **Christ is your life**, we will appear with Him in Glory…
2. ***“Put to death your members which are on the earth”* (3:5-11)**
3. Therefore…

* Because you are raised with Christ you put to death these things.
* **Christians don’t sin! (not that they don’t fall short at all, but they don’t live in sin)**
  + **The new life that is a Christian life is devoid of practicing sin. The decision to sin should never be entertained.**
* ***“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4)****.*

1. The wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
2. This was the character of the “old man” in the past.

* “***once*** walked”
* “***when*** you liv***ed***”

1. Don’t do these things because you have put on the “new man.”

* Renewed in knowledge. (what knowledge?)
* According… “to the image of Him” (Christ!)
* *“And do not be conformed to this world, but* ***be transformed by the renewing of your mind****” (Romans 12:2).*
  + **Christ is our standard of living.**

1. Put on the character of the new man (**3:12-17**)
2. Therefore…

* Because you are raised with Christ….
* Because you are the elect of God and holy (sanctified)…

1. Put on these things **(3:12-14**)

* Love is the bond of perfection.
  + Love encompasses all these things.

1. We have to LET the peace of God dwell in us

* Suggests action on our part…
* Tranquility of mind is only found in subjection to God’s word.
* Peace among others is only found in the one body.

1. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

* The solution to sin!
* The way to spiritual mindedness!
* **To do this you must act on it and obey it…**

1. **Whatever you do, make sure it is authorized!**
2. Put on change of character in relationships (**3:18-4:1**)

If you were raised with Christ, and are seeking things above, you will have a change in relationships…

1. Wives to husbands.

* Submit

1. Husbands to wives.

* Love
* Don’t be bitter (hold authority over her head)
  + ***“Husbands, dwell with them…as being heirs together of the grace of life” (1 Peter 3:7).***

1. Children to parents.

* Obey in ALL THINGS.

1. Fathers to children.

* Do not provoke them.

1. Servants to masters. (workplace)

* Obey in ALL THINGS.
* Not with eyeservice. (only when they are looking, but always)

1. Masters to servants. (workplace)

* Give what is just and fair.