

Our Identity in Christ > Colossians 3:1-17

3:1-4 Paul's challenge: if you are truly in Christ, then you are called to live accordingly. How are we to do that? By seeking what is above and setting minds there as well. As Christians, we follow our Savior not only in thought, but in action, too.

3:5-11 Being identified with Christ means that we employ Spirit-fueled effort to change our attitudes, actions, and speech. Part of that change is the putting to death of the "old man" or old self: who we were before our identity was found in Jesus. The call is to not live how we used to, but to live in our new life, the new identity we have as Christ's people.

3:12-17 But Christ's call upon us isn't just a list of "don't do that...", instead it is also "but do this..." That's what we see here – again, using the template of attitudes, actions, and our speech – Christians are called to live in such a way that the joy we have from Christ and in Christ is evident.

Context: Paul has been arguing that Christians are bound to Jesus – we follow Him, not some other man-made teaching from this world. In **chapters 3-4**, Paul's goal is to very practically and clearly show how that works in life.

Aim: That the Colossians would take Christ alone as their pattern for life.

Gospel: These are not "to do" lists, but instead a call to live and enjoy the fruit of being alive in Christ. Obedience comes from our response to His saving and enabling grace.

Applications: How are you asking the Lord to change you so that you would live in the joy of your identity in Him?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
