

New Identity, New Culture (Colossians 3:1-17)

With grace and clarity Colossians 3 lays out the new way of life we're meant to walk in. Like new clothes laid out for us, we're invited to remove our old, filthy clothes that defined our past (they don't fit anymore!) and put on what reflects our new identity in Jesus.

1. NEW IDENTITY - this is who we are (Colossians 3:1-4)

Our life is hidden with Christ in God = a place of security; freedom of fear and all the power you need to deal with any and all opposition.

He IS your life. When he appears, we will appear with Him in glory.

Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21 *"To me to live is Christ"*

For Christ to *be my life* doesn't mean I lose my personality or become a puppet of some kind. It means Jesus influences everything about me.

"Set your minds (think deeply about this)..."

It means to focus, center your life on, always be thinking about, be obsessed (gripped, preoccupied) with Jesus – who He is, what He's done!

To live in a way that demonstrates His rule and reign over every area of our lives.

The power and motivation behind living a transformed life is found in knowing our new identity in Christ. Everything is connected to this. 2 Peter 1:9

2. NEW CULTURE - this is how we're to live (Colossians 3:5-17)

A culture is a way of life. Culture involves attitudes and behaviors characteristic of a particular people – in our case a particular PERSON = our new culture *is* Christ Jesus. We've entered into a new life, new manners, customs...with new clothes! Romans 13:12-14; Colossians 3:12

VV5-11 Our OLD clothes don't fit us anymore

This putting off of our old self (those patterns of behavior) is like the removing of stinky, filthy clothes...you end up pitching them! They are inappropriate + inconsistent.

Ephesians 4:17-25; 2 Corinthians 5:14-18

VV12-17 Our NEW clothes are laid out for us

"Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

V14! LOVE is the non-negotiable, all-purpose article of clothing you need to wear.

3:17 style living? In His strength, as His representative, for His glory style living.

QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you? Did you learn anything new or was something emphasized you needed to hear again? Any conviction or encouragement?
2. Why is it important to know who we are in Christ? What does Colossians 3 say about who we are in Christ? How should this knowledge influence how we live?
3. What does it mean for Christ to *be your life*?
4. Describe the culture found IN Jesus. Who lives that way and why?
5. Where do *you* find motivation and power for living a godly life? What is the great transformation Paul says is the reason for our changed behavior? Colossians 3:9-10
6. Colossians 3:16 tells us to "let the message of Christ dwell among you richly". What are ways we can do this more and more as a church community?
Read Colossians 3:12-17 and Romans 13:12-14. How might the community that is Local Church St. Pete help us live this way?
7. Is there someone you need to forgive? How does the forgiveness you've received in Christ not only motivate you to forgive but empower you to forgive others?
8. What is Colossians 3:17 style living? What does this look like in your life?