

Date: **August 1, 2021**

Title: **Renewed in Christ**

Scripture Text: **Colossians 3:1–17**

The Apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Colossian church during one of his imprisonments. Consistent with his other epistles, Paul clearly outlines the gospel and then helps his readers apply the gospel to daily life. More specifically, he is writing to combat some issues of false teachers combining biblical truth with false ideologies that were present during that time (particularly asceticism and early Gnosticism). As a result, Paul portrays the superiority of Christ alone and describes what it means to find true life in him. This week's passage introduces the practical application of the content from Paul's gospel presentation and theological discussion in [Colossians 1–2](#).

Therefore, renewed life in Christ gives us:

I. **Identity ([Colossian 3:1-4](#))**

Identity is the foundation for a person's thoughts, words, and actions. These verses contain an essential detail in that the contents for verses [5–17](#) are for those who *"have been raised with Christ"* ([v. 1](#)). This is a strong retort to the claim that the Christian life is a mere list of "dos and don'ts." As we are now given life in Christ, our focus and direction in life is based on our identity in Christ to bring him glory. Therefore, this imagery of casting off the old self and putting on the new self does not only refer to conversion but is also relevant to the ongoing process of becoming more like Jesus after salvation.

- **How does your identity influence your thoughts, words, and actions?**
 - **Can you share how the gospel has changed your identity and transformed the way you live your life?**
 - **Take a moment to thank God for His redemptive work in your life and the transformation that you've experienced as a result.**
- **How might one's baptism be a helpful reminder (and picture) of the meaning of [verse 3](#)? (cf. [Col. 2:12](#))**
- **How does your identity in Christ, especially according to [verse 4](#), provide a life ethic for believers?**

II. **Focus ([Colossians 3:5-9](#))**

Consistent with the exhortation to set our *"minds on the things that are above"* in [verse 2](#), Paul describes how our focus is no longer on the things of this world. People are constantly attempting to pursue the desires of the flesh, *"self-made religion"* ([Col. 2:23](#)), and *"empty deceit based on human tradition"* ([Col. 2:8](#)) for fulfillment. Yet, consistent with the wording of this passage, we are called to actively combat these tendencies in our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- **Was there ever a time that you had to make a difficult decision to remove something (big or small) from your life?**
 - **What made this decision difficult but necessary?**
- **What does the reminder of [verse 7](#) mean for your focus as you *"cast off the old self"* and seek to live for Christ?**
 - **How does it influence your worship, interactions, and growth?**
- **How does the truth of the gospel help you in moments when you fall back into the ways of the *"old self"*?**

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If you have a need or a prayer request, contact the church office at [850.878.5503](tel:850.878.5503), office@morningsidetlh.org, or complete the [Prayer Request Form](#)

III. Purpose (Colossians 3:10-17)

Paul, then, provides positive instruction for God's people as they seek to live lives that glorifies the Lord. Whereas the previous passage contained lists of "*the old self*", which essentially undermine the integrity of a body of believers, the ways of "*the new self*" fosters a healthy, unified, thriving community.

- **Consider the dynamic of the attitude, lifestyle, and interactions of this passage. How does this differ from the passage that contains the earthly ways of "*the old self*"?**
- **How do the ways of "*the new self*" found in Christ remedy the tendencies of the flesh?**
- **How does the overall nature of this passage transcend a legalistic mindset to foster growth in the gospel and a healthy spiritual community?**