



Week 4: Death to Life!
Sunday, February 5th 2023

† Paul's sixth sense

† When you were dead...
Colossians 2:13a

† God made you alive!
Colossians 2:13b

† All means all
Colossians 2:13c

† Cancelled!
Colossians 2:14

† Humiliated
Colossians 2:15

† Dead to being dead
Romans 6:6-8

Questions for reflection and discussion

- Read Colossians 2:13. What does it mean that apart from the New Life of Christ, people (the human condition) are dead? What does this look like? What are the observable consequences of trying to be alive when we are spiritually dead?
- Still with V13... Think back to last week's discussion about 'the flesh.' What is the distinction between our 'sin' and the 'uncircumcision of our flesh?' Why is this understanding important?
- And *still* with V13... When Paul says "God forgave us ALL our sins, what does he mean? Do all Christian traditions agree about the degree of forgiveness a person receives in Christ, and how we go about being forgiven? How would you respond to someone who said "Pastor Ethan's explanation of 'all' is dangerous. It will just lead people to sin without conscience."
- Verse 14- What does Paul mean by 'the charge of our legal indebtedness'- if this were a physical document, and you could hold yours, what would it say? How does this concept 'stand against us' and 'condemn' us in this life- how we think, feel, and act, now?
- What is the significance of how Paul describes the charges against us (above) being nailed to the cross with Christ? How does this image enlarge our understanding of the forgiveness we have received in Christ?
- Verse 15- What are the 'powers and authorities' Christ humiliated through the cross? How is this idea counter-intuitive? Why does it matter for us today?

Next Sunday: Week 4- From Death to Life. Colossians 2:13-15
