

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR

APRIL 19, 2020

COLOSSIANS 3:1-11

¹ Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

⁵ Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶ For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, ¹⁰ and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— ¹¹ *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction* between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

STUDY IT

- Starter: who is writing this letter and what authority does he have in the early church? (Ch.1)
- Note the various times that Paul uses “with Christ” or “with Him”. What do you think it means to be...
 - Raised with Christ? (v.1)
 - A life hidden with Christ? (v.3)
 - Revealed with Christ in glory? (v.4)
- In what ways do you experience a mind that is set on things above? Or on things on earth? What is the difference and why does it matter? (v.2)
- How might someone “put to death” their earthly passions? (v.5)

- Look at the list in verse 5. Write down each word and consider how each stems from an idolatrous root:

SIN	IDOL

- How has God’s wrath affected the “sons of disobedience”? Who are these people? (v.6-7)
- In verses 8-9, Paul mentions the various ways our speech hurts one another. Why does God care so much about the way we treat one another?
- In the early church, people claimed their identity based on some affiliation with a people group in society. What might that have done to the sense of community within God’s people? (v.11)

APPLY IT

- What are some ways your new self is different from your old self?
- If you are experiencing shadows of that former self, why do you think that is? What *truth* is God speaking to you today about that *former* identity?
- What practices might help you live in the new image you have been given in Christ? (Hint: if there are evil practices (v.9), there *might be good practices*.)
- What is the benefit of God’s removal of earthly distinctions? (v.11)