



Lesson 13: Live with Christ

Every Christian Should Live to Please God

 Study at a Glance: The 5 W's

KEY AREA	DETAILS AND SUMMARY
WHO (Author & Audience)	
WHAT (Core Message)	
WHEN (Timing)	
WHERE (Location)	
WHY (Rationale)	

Introduction: The Riches of Christ Applied

Chapters 1 and 2 of Colossians taught us the **main truth** about Jesus. Chapter 1 proved that Jesus is the absolute **boss over everything**—He created the world, holds it together, and is the Head of the Church. Chapter 2 gave us a **strong warning**: since we are already made **complete** in Christ, we must say no to extra religious rules, special diets, or human philosophies that try to make us "more saved." Jesus's work is enough!

Now, Chapter 3 makes a big move from what Christ **did** (doctrine) to what we **should do** (duty). Since we have been **raised to a new life** with Jesus, our focus, our desires, and our actions must all change. The rest of this study shows exactly what this new, resurrected life looks like when we interact with fellow believers and the world around us.

Key Terms Defined

TERM	ORIGINAL WORD in Greek	DEFINITION (Contextual)
Affection		
Mortify		
Concupiscence		
Covetousness		
Clothe/Put On		
Bowels (of mercy)		
Redeeming the Time		

SECTION 1: Col 3:1-7 Live by a New Affection

(Read Colossians 3:1-7)

Paul begins by linking our position (raised with Christ) to our direction (heavenly focus). Since our true life is hidden with Christ in God, we must actively redirect our deepest desires and affections away from earthly, temporal things and toward eternal realities. This new focus necessitates the immediate and decisive "putting to death" of the old, unholy nature.

Discussion Questions

1. **Text/Exegesis:** Verses 5-7 list sins of sensuality and passion ("sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire"). Why does Paul call these things "earthly members" that must be "put to death" (**mortification**)? What is the relationship between our "earthly members" and the "wrath of God"?
2. **Application:** How do you practically "set your mind on things above" (v. 2) in the modern world, which constantly demands your focus on things below (e.g., social media trends, consumerism, career advancement)?

SECTION 2: Col 3:8-14 Put on Your New Nature

(Read Colossians 3:8-14)

The second part of the command involves intentionally adopting the character and actions of Christ, which are the evidence of the new nature. Paul provides a list of vices to put off (anger, slander, lying) and a corresponding list of virtues to "put on" (compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience). Above all, the greatest garment to wear is love.

Discussion Questions

1. **Text/Exegesis:** The list of "put off" sins (v. 8) focuses heavily on speech and relational issues (anger, wrath, malice, slander, obscene talk). Why are the sins of the tongue so destructive to Christian community, and why must they be dealt with immediately after sensual sins?
2. **Application:** Paul says to "put on compassion, kindness, humility..." (v. 12). If you were to intentionally focus on "putting on" **humility** this week, what is one specific situation or relationship where you would need to practice it?

SECTION 3: Col 3:15-17 and Col 4:2-6 Imitate Christ

(Read Colossians 3:15-17 and Colossians 4:2-6)

Paul finishes the practical section by applying the new nature to corporate worship and outward mission. The internal presence of Christ is manifested outwardly through peace, teaching, thankfulness, and prayer. Our transformed identity then fuels our engagement with the outside world, requiring wisdom and grace in every conversation.

Discussion Questions

1. **Text/Exegesis:** In Col 4:5-6, Paul gives two primary commands for external conduct: "Walk in wisdom toward outsiders" and "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt." What does it mean for your speech to be "seasoned with salt," and how does this balance grace and truth?
2. **Application:** Paul asks for prayer that God would open a "door for the word" (4:3). What is one area of your life (e.g., workplace, neighborhood, gym) where you see a "door" opening, and what is the next step you need to take to "redeem the time" (4:5) and step through it?

Conclusion: The Mandate of the Resurrected Life

Colossians 3 and 4 move the truth of Christ's supremacy from the abstract realm of doctrine to the practical sphere of everyday life. Since Christ secured a perfect identity for us by His resurrection, Paul commands us to live in alignment with that identity.

The practical mandate rests on three pillars:

1. **New Affection (Col 3:1-7):** We are commanded to change our internal compass, fixing our minds on eternal, heavenly things, which requires the active **mortification** (putting to death) of the sensual sins of the old nature.
2. **New Nature (Col 3:8-14):** We must actively **put on** the virtues of Christ—especially humility, kindness, and love—replacing the interpersonal sins of anger and malice. This results in the radical, non-divisive unity of the new community, the Church.
3. **New Conduct (Col 3:15-4:6):** The internal change is made visible through a life characterized by deep gratitude, constant prayer, and wisdom. This wisdom ensures that our interactions with the world ("outsiders") are both gracious and intentional ("redeeming the time") for the sake of the Gospel.

The ultimate goal of all these commands is simple: **Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him** (Col 3:17).