

# Made to Flourish

## Colossians 3:1-17

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brian Fannin/ Aug. 21, 2022

**Colossians 3:1-17** “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. <sup>5</sup> Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup> But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. <sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

### Paul instructs us to see and live two principles in order to flourish:

#### I. You are bound to Christ.

Faith in Christ changes your spiritual position and your eternal destiny. Because you are spiritually new, you should pursue that which reflects who you actually are, specifically the abiding presence of Christ now within you.

Do not ever make the mistake of diminishing the importance of your identity in Christ. If you do, you will attach your identity to anything. How we think about who we are is foundational to life, our goals, and how satisfaction is measured.

The truth itself can leave you immature, because it falls short in commissioning you toward how you should live. God calls us to become in experience what you are by God's grace. When we are comfortable with incomplete truth, we live immaturely. We fail to thrive.

#### II. You are bound to one another.

To flourish demands embracing putting on new life, and that new life is connected—bound to others.

We waste so much time staring at screens instead of really connecting with people. And what was seen as a tool for bringing people together, has only driven us further removed from real connection.

**Galatians 5:13** “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

“No one has been chosen to be just a recipient of the redemptive work of His kingdom. No, everyone who has been chosen to be a recipient has also been commissioned to be an instrument of the work of that kingdom as well...[But] part of our problem is that we tend to carry around with us an unbiblical definition of ministry that allows us to live comfortably as Christian consumers.”

~ Paul David Tripp, *New Morning Mercies*