

IDENTITY CRISIS-  
LIVING ACCORDING TO YOUR IDENTITY  
Colossians 3:1-17

How we identify ourselves reveals something about who we are, what we believe and what we do. As followers of Christ our primary identity is found in Christ and our lives should reflect that identity. Living according to your identity does not automatically happen. It is a process. In the letter to the Colossians, Paul gives us a roadmap as to how we can live according to our identity. A road map to living the Kingdom life here and now.

ETERNITY FOCUSED, NOT EARTHLY FOCUSED (COLISSIANS 3:1-4)

**If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”**

Earlier in Colossians, Paul argues that Jesus is the source of all things (1:15-20) and because of his death on the cross, our identity comes from Him and is found in Him (2:13-15) In light of these truths, Paul urges us to be living according to our identity. If our identity is with Christ then we are to be setting our mind on things that are of Christ and doing things that Jesus would do. As followers of Christ we should be eternally focused, not earthly focused. How we see ourselves and what we think about should be from an eternal perspective. Our thought life should be full of eternal truths and purposes.

KINGDOM LIVING BEGINS WITH THE MIND (COLOSSIANS 3:5-11)

If the Colossians wanted to live according to their new identity in Christ, they would need to rid themselves of the old identity which they used to have. Paul goes on to list the earthly things that they were to put off: Sexual immorality, passion, lust, anger, wrath, malice, slander etc. This was not a simple task for the Colossians. This was the life they have lived for so many years, and even now, this was the culture that they were living in. It is so easy to slip back into old habits and beliefs that they have held for so long. So how does Paul suggest that they put off their old self/Identity?

**10and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.**

We by renewing our minds after the person of Jesus Christ. Simply put, we are to read His word. To be free from sexual immorality, we need to change the way we think about our actions. We need to think differently about how our actions are affecting us and others around us. Where does that source of information come from? Our Creator. He knows all and so we let His word change the way we think. When we change the way we think, we begin to change the way we act. If we want to free ourselves from the bondage of earthly things (anger, wrath, malice, etc.) and experience kingdom life, i.e. patience and love and compassion, it starts with what we fill

our mind with. A good saying that helps to reinforce this idea is: Sow a thought, reap an action, sow an action, reap a habit, sow a habit, reap a character.

#### KINGDOM LIVING (COLOSSIANS 3:12-17)

<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 now gives the Colossians a picture of what kingdom life is like and the identity which we are to live by. It is a life of compassion, humility, patience, and forgiveness. How do we as a church continue to live the Kingdom life here and now? We are to bear with one another (James 5:16, Gal. 6:1-8), forgive one another and encourage one another (Mat. 6:9-15, Eph. 4:32), constantly be in His word (Psalm 1), love above all else (John 13:34-35, 1 Corinthians 13), always praising God and being thankful.

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### **Grace Family Needs, News and Notes**

#### **GCC Youth Kick off: Sept. 5th @ 10am**

Attention all Incoming 6th graders to 12 graders we are excited to be kicking off a new year with you and want you to be there and hear about all we are doing in the youth group and start the new year right. We will have games, prizes, an obstacle course and more.

#### **GCC Youth Parent Meeting: Sept. 5th after second service (11am)**

Following the Kick off, we will be hosting a parent meeting in the youth room for all parents of youth. This will be a time to hear about the changes in the youth ministry, receive the 2021 fall calendar and to get any questions answered that you might have.

#### **Conquer Series- The battle for Purity: Sept. 9th 7-9PM in Modular.**

10 week series. Sign-ups are not required For more information email: Scott Plunkett – splunkett3@cox.net

#### **Trail Life USA: Sept 17th @ 5:30 here at Grace.**

Trail Life USA is coming to Grace! If you have a son, come see us on the patio today, and join us for our BBQ and open house.

#### **Parents Round table: Sept. 17th 7-8pm in Modular**

Dessert fellowship of parents with members of staff. This will be your chance to talk about raising children and explore ways Grace Church can better support you as parents. Childcare provided. For more information: Paul Nelson – paul@gccramona.com