

**Christ Is All And In All**  
Hope Chapel Honolulu  
Colossians 3:1-17

<sup>1</sup> 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.  
(Colossians 3:1-4, ESV)

**Introduction**

Perhaps one of the first passages of Scripture I memorized as a young Christian some 38 years ago was this: “If any man is in Christ, then he has become a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new in Him” (2Corinthians 5:17). Of course, just as there’s more to the passage than what I remembered in song, there’s so much more to setting our minds on Christ than memorizing Scripture. But without the renewal of our minds—perhaps the first of those five key elements in discipleship—it would be nearly impossible to see ourselves as God does. Some of these truths are evident immediately upon believing in Christ, some will have to wait until Christ returns for you and I.

**1. New lives and new priorities. (Colossians 3:1-6)**

- a) The teaching of the apostles and understanding the Scriptures.
- b) Putting to death what belongs to this world and not in heaven.

**2. A new self and a new shared identity. (Colossians 3:7-11)**

- a) Sin is not a matter of us and them, but our shared need for Christ.
- b) What are the implications of “Christ is all, and in all”?

**3. Learning to resemble and represent Christ. (Colossians 3:12-17)**

- a) Putting on the character of Christ and His benefits.
- b) Allowing the Word of Christ fill and renew your heart and mind.

**Conclusion**

Psalm 118:18-20 says, “The Lord has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it” (ESV). These “gates of righteousness” that David sang of were actually the discipline of the LORD’s grace and truth. Perhaps grace and truth can be likened to a tourniquet: a life-saving device that takes a wide and strong yet soft piece of cloth and then tightly wraps and secures that cloth around a limb to prevent life-threatening blood loss. Grace makes truth palatable; truth holds grace in place until God’s work is done.

**For our prayerful study, discussion and application:**

- 1) What is your new identity in Christ and how has this changed you since believing and being baptized?
- 2) How does your shared identity in Christ help you to love other believers who seem different from you?
- 3) What are the Word and Spirit of God saying to you through this passage of Scripture?

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