

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"LIVING THE RISEN LIFE" | COLOSSIANS 3:1-17 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

- What is in your closet that you should get rid of but you like keeping?

"Seek the Things Above" Colossians 3: 1-4

Because a believer has a new identity in Jesus, their mind is continually points toward Him like a compass continually points north.

- What's an example of the difference between setting your mind of things above and not on things of earth?
- How does thinking about the future glory with Jesus help one persevere in life?

"Put to Death the Old Life" Colossians 3: 5-9

Believers are to take sin seriously and end it. This means old attitudes and appetites die.

- What does it practically look like to put to death old attitudes and appetites?
- Which of the sins in this list are hardest to stop?

"Put On the New Self" Colossians 3: 10-14

Believers replace their old life with a new life that shows their new identity. It is marked by good character with a loving heart.

- How does bearing with one another and forgiving each other show love?
- Why should unity and harmony be the mark of believers with their new identity in Christ?

"3 Things That Should Rule the Christian" Colossians 3: 15-17

Believers are guided by the peace of Christ and filled with His Word which results in doing everything in His name.

- What does it look like to let the importance of peace for God's people guide your heart?
- What does it look like to let scripture dwell in your heart?

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Paul is reminding Christ followers that their old life is gone, so their attitudes, thoughts and guidelines are changed. These are now built on their identity in Jesus which is marked by forgiveness and peaceful harmony through love.

- Have you been holding on to your old life with its attitudes and appetites? Why?
- How can you live out what Christ has already made you to be this week?
- Ask for forgiveness for putting on your old life and gives thanks to God for your new life in Him.

Living the Risen Life

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online 10am.
- B. Slide1-4 AP: Single Moms. FHC. Worship Night. Community Group Training.
- C. Slide5 Ladies, don't forget that REAL is this Tuesday at 7pm in the FH. Bloom Talks
- D. Slide6 @Risk Join us next Sunday at 3pm for our "AT Risk" meeting. We will be showing a **video** of a **panel discussion** *on the future of US Human trafficking policies*. The video highlights former Ambassador John Cotton Richmond, along with 5 other former ambassadors. The panel took place at a **Law school in Washington DC**. It's really informative and eye opening, and we'd love for you to come, listen, and join the discussion afterwards. [before I pray ...]
- E. Slide7 Heidelberg Catechism (1563) *A series of Q & A's for use in teaching Reformed Christian doctrine.*
 - 1. It begins not with *rules*, but with **comfort**. It begins with **identity** before obedience, **belonging** before behavior, and **grace** before responsibility.
 - 2. **Q1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?** - That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who with his precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins, and redeemed me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me, that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation. Wherefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.
- F. Slide8 Prayer:

II. Slide9a Intro: Living the Risen Life

- A. Paul has spent the 1st 2 chapters *Exalting Christ* - telling us **who Christ is** and **what Christ has done**. Now he answers the obvious question: *If Jesus is truly Supreme, what should my life look like?* [Jesus + anything = nothing]
 - 1. And the answer is not, try harder, but instead, *Live out who you already are*
 - a) Classic Paul: **identity** before *activity*, **doctrine** before *duty*, **grace** b4 *obedience*.
- B. Theme: **Our new identity in Christ**.

C. Big Idea: Because Christ has given us a new life, we are called to live a new way.

D. Have you ever met someone whose *entire life changed* cuz their identity changed?

1. Perhaps: a couple becoming parents, someone becoming an American citizen, a recruit becoming a Marine, someone recovering from addiction.

2. Their **identity** changed - **so** their **lifestyle** changed.

a) Paul says, *You are no longer who you were, **so** **don't live like you used to**.*

E. Slide9b Now chapter 3 begins with one of the biggest words in Scripture, *If then* (since) '*you have been raised with*' Christ. rest of chapter - **then**, **Live like it!**

1. συνεγείρω [sunegeiro /soon·ne·Gi·ro] 5 English words.

2. **With** = Gk prefix *soon*, to be synced up with/something. As my iPhone is *synced* to my iCloud - **so** **you** have been **synced up** w/Christ! [what's true of **Him** is true of **you**] **We share in that Victory of Resurrection**.

a) Christianity **isn't** *behavior modification*, it's *resurrection transformation*.

III. Slide10 1. **SEEK THE THINGS ABOVE (1-4)**

A. 1 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.

B. Notice Paul's assumptions. He assumes: *You have died. You have been raised. Christ is reigning. Your life is hidden with Christ. Christ is coming again* - That's your identity.

C. **Seek & Set your mind** - live with *heaven's priorities* **while** serving faithfully **on earth**.

1. Heavenly-minded people often do the greatest earthly good.

2. **Where your mind** goes your **life** follows. The Christian life begins with *transformed thinking*.

a) **Or** we can say it, as a **compass** continually **points north**, **so** the **Christian mind** continually **points toward Christ**.

- D. **We will share in that resurrection glory.** *We remember our future. We remember our destiny. It's how we persevere in this life.*
- E. In 1952, Florence Chadwick attempted to be the first woman to swim the 26 miles between Catalina Island **and** the California coastline.
1. She was flanked by small boats that watched for sharks and were prepared to help her. A thick fog set in and she began to doubt her ability, and she told her mother (in one of the boats) that she didn't think she could make it. - She swam for **another hour** before asking to be **pulled out**, **unable to see the coastline due to the fog**. As she sat in the boat, she found out she had stopped swimming **just 1 mile away from her destination**. She said, **"All I could see was the fog. If I could have seen the shore I would have made it."**
 - a) Saints, sometimes in this life *all we can see is the fog*. **But** we are a mile from the shore. **Keep swimming Church, keep persevering!** (she tried again 2 months later ... **and** she succeeded).

IV. Slide11a **2. PUT TO DEATH THE OLD LIFE (5-9)**

- A.5 **Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have **put off** the old self with its practices.
- B. **Notice the language.** *Not manage. Not tolerate. Not negotiate. Put to death!*
1. **Sin** isn't a **pet**, it's a **predator**.
 2. Eng Puritan, John Owen said, *Be killing sin or it will be killing you*. 1600's
- C. Slide11b Paul mentions 2 categories:
1. **Sins of appetite:** *sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, covetousness*. (Paul says covetousness is idolatry, because it worships what God gives instead of God Himself).

2. **Sins of attitude:** *anger, wrath, malice, slander, obscene talk, lying.*

- a) Notice the progression: Anger inside, to words outside. **Eventually relationships destroyed.**

D. Just like with **weeds**, *You don't trim weeds, you **pull them out by the roots**,*
Otherwise they return.

V. Slide12a **3. PUT ON THE NEW SELF (10-14)**

A. 10 and have **put on** the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; **but Christ is all**, and in all. 12 **Put on then**, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 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. 14 And above all these **put on love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

B. Christianity isn't merely *subtraction*, it's **replacement**. The Christian wardrobe changes. Think of a jersey ... Slide12b

1. **LeBron James** is now a free agent after ending his 8-season run with the **Los Angeles Lakers**. Multiple teams are actively pursuing him for this next season. Will he sport the Cleveland Cavaliers jersey again? We wait and watch. **But I prophecy this...** he won't be wearing his *Lakers jersey* once he signs *w/a new team*. He has put off & put on! **New identity/new allegiance!**

C. The New Self is *being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator*.

1. **So** God isn't merely *improving* us, **He's restoring His image!**

D. **Christ is All** (11) One of the greatest verses in Colossians.

1. No longer: Jew, Greek, Slave, Free, Barbarian, Scythian. Instead, *"Christ is all, and in all."*
2. **Our deepest identity** is no longer found in *race, status, politics, career, nationality* - **Christ defines us.**

E. **Put on** - just like getting dressed each morning: *compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience*. **All character qualities of Jesus.**

1. **W/our new clothes/new man**: we have new *sensibilities*, new *abilities*, and new *possibilities*. [**Laz**: take off those *grave-clothes* & put on your *grace-clothes*]

F. **Bear with one another** - *why does he add this?* Because healthy churches are full of imperfect people. **And you're** one of them! ... *and so am I*. **And Grace** is required.

G. **Forgive** - ...as the Lord has forgiven you - *the gospel becomes the pattern* - *we forgive because we've been forgiven*.

H. **Above all these put on Love** - **Wear Love!**

1. **What is the identifying mark of a Hindu?** (Bindi, drop/dot). **What is the identifying mark of a Punjabi/Sikh religion?** (Turban). **What is the identifying mark of a Jew?** (yarmulke/kippah). **What is the identifying mark of a Mormon?** (wh/Shirt, tie, name badge, 1st name is elder). **What is the identifying mark of a JW?** (Watch Tower/Awake magazines). **What is the identifying mark of a Christian?** (wears a cross?). **What is the identifying mark of a Genuine Believer?** (**Love**)

a) Believers have advertised to the world *what we don't do, don't see, don't read, don't say*. **Maybe now** we show them **what we've put on** - **What we do**.

I. **Love** isn't one virtue among many, it's **the** virtue that ties every other virtue together. (like a belt in the 1st century, the belt held the garment together. **Love** holds every Christian virtue together). **Wear Love - Do Love!**

VI. Slide 13 **4. 3 THINGS THAT SHOULD RULE THE CHRISTIAN (15-17)**

A. 15 And let **the peace of Christ** rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 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. 17 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.

B. **3 Rulers in our lives:**

1. **Let the Peace of Christ Rule** - *rule* means *umpire* or *arbitrator* **that decides and rules our life**. God's peace should govern our decisions (**not** anxiety. **not** fear. **not** panic). [**stresses harmony in the group**/rather than personal peace here].
2. **Let the Word of Christ Dwell Richly** - Notice: not merely visit. **But** dwell, be at home, fill every room.
 - a) Scripture should **inhabit** us, **not** simply *inform* us.
 - b) **Teaching. Admonishing. Singing.** - The early church sang theology. **Music became discipleship.**
3. **Do Everything in Jesus' Name** - Whether: working, parenting, driving, emailing, serving ... **Everything becomes worship.**

VII.Slide14a **CHRIST CONNECTION**

- A. This entire passage is possible because of union with Christ.
 1. Notice: You died. You were raised. Your life is hidden. Christ will appear.
 2. **Because Jesus died - you died. Because Jesus rose - you rose. His resurrection becomes our new identity.**
 - a) Christianity isn't *imitation*, it's **participation**.

VIII.WRAP UP

- A. Paul is telling the christians in Colossae **and** in Murrieta - **Stop** living like the person who died. **Start** living like the person Christ raised. **The old life has been buried, don't keep visiting its grave.**
- B. **Slide14b** The Christian life isn't about *becoming* someone new. It's about living like the new person Christ has already made you to be.
- C. **Every morning we have a choice.** We can **put on the clothes** of the old life - **or** we can **put on Christ**. One reflects who we *were*, the other reflects who we are *becoming*.
 1. Live out your **new identity**. Live out who you **already are!**

D.Keywords: living, love, do.