

**“Living in Christ”**  
Jesus at the Center of It All—Part 9  
*Colossians 3:1-11*

**The Christ and Freedom connection:**

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. *Galatians 5:13*

**1. Alive in Christ.**

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*  
*Colossians 3:1-4*

• **Zombies no longer!** (*raised with Christ*)

*He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*  
*1 John 5:12*

***Our eternal life is not hypothetical,  
nor is it a goal. It is an accomplished fact!***

• **Come alive to new realities.**

*I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ...*  
*Philippians 1:20-21*

• **Hidden in Christ means security and satisfaction.**

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Romans 8:38-39*

• **Jesus is coming for us!**

*When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*  
*Colossians 3:4*

*Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like*

the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

## **2. Take off the old sinful self.**

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices...

Colossians 3:5-9

***Because we have died with Christ  
we have the spiritual power to slay the earthly,  
fleshly desires that want to control us!***

**Paul spells out three types of sins:**

- Sins of perverted love.
- Sins of greed.
- Sins of hate.

***The battle against all sin begins in the mind!***

**The reason for putting sin to death:**

- Sin brings God's judgment.

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness...

Romans 1:18

- Sin is part of the believer's past.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:1-5

**Sin is like an empty well.  
It promises satisfaction and leaves you empty.  
Sin never brings happiness!**

• Sin brings God's discipline.

*"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline,  
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,  
because the Lord disciplines those he loves,  
and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."*

Hebrews 12:5-6

**3. Put on the new Christ-like self.**

*...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its  
Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian,  
Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.* Colossians  
3:10-11

**Application:** Renewal is a constant process that began at the moment of salvation. We call the process sanctification, which means we are becoming more and more like Jesus. The renewal process comes about through a very specific kind of knowledge. The better you get to know Christ the more like Him you will become.

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the  
renewing of your mind.* Romans 12:2

*I want to know Christ—* Philippians 3:10

***One of the evidences of knowing Christ  
is the willingness to receive and love others  
who know Christ and seek to glorify Him.***

"Living in Christ" is ninth in a series titled "Jesus at the Center of It All. July 5, 2015. All verses are from the New International version unless noted.