

Challenged & Blessed

Paul's Message to the Church



Set your minds and keep them set...

Colossians 3:1-11

Colossians 3:1-11 (Amplified Bible)

If then you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead], aim at and seek the [rich, eternal treasures] that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

² And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth.

³ For [as far as this world is concerned] you have died, and your [new, real] life is hidden with Christ in God.

⁴ When Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in [the splendor of His] glory.

⁵ So kill (deaden, [a]deprive of power) the evil desire lurking in your members [those animal impulses and all that is earthly in you that is employed in sin]: sexual vice, impurity, sensual appetites, unholy desires, and all greed and covetousness, for that is idolatry (the deifying of self and other created things instead of God).

⁶ It is on account of these [very sins] that the [holy] anger of God is ever coming upon the sons of disobedience (those who are obstinately opposed to the divine will),

⁷ Among whom you also once walked, when you were living in and addicted to [such practices].

⁸ But now put away and rid yourselves [completely] of all these things: anger, rage, bad feeling toward others, curses and slander, and foulmouthed abuse and shameful utterances from your lips!

⁹ Do not lie to one another, for you have stripped off the old (unregenerate) self with its evil practices,

¹⁰ And have clothed yourselves with the new [spiritual self], which is [ever in the process of being] renewed and remolded into [fuller and more perfect [b]knowledge upon] knowledge after the image (the likeness) of Him Who created it.

¹¹ [In this new creation all distinctions vanish.] There [c]is no room for and there can be neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, [nor difference between nations whether alien] barbarians or Scythians [[d]who are the most savage of all], nor slave or free man; but Christ is all and in all [[e]everything and everywhere, to all men, without distinction of person].

Set your minds and keep them set...

There's a certain freedom in being already dead. For one thing, no one can kill you anymore! What might that make you free of?

You are free to "Think about what you are thinking about!" And we are free to change how we think about things when it doesn't fit our new life in Christ.

"As a man thinks in his heart, so it is"...Proverbs 23:7, King James Version...Think about this – how does how you are thinking affect how things are?

Our actions are direct results of our thoughts. If we have a negative mind, we will have a negative life. And if we set our minds positively, we will have a positive life.

On a scale of 0-10-, 10 being the most positive, how positive is your thinking today?

Sometime today, when you are reacting to something, pay attention to how you are thinking. How does how you are thinking about that situation feel to you? It is useful to feeling good? If not, you can deliberately change what you are thinking. It takes effort, but find a more positive thought, and repeat it to yourself 10 times. Then notice what difference that thought is making in your mood. If you don't feel any different, repeat that positive thought 30 more times, and then check your mood again.

That is how we begin to "put to death" what is not of God in us – unuseful stuff that lurks within us...

Sexual vice, unhealthy thoughts, sensual appetites, unholy desires, and all greed and covetousness, for that is idolatry (the deifying of self and other created things instead of God)...

Put away and rid yourselves of all these things – anger, rage, bad feeling toward others, curses and slander, foul-mouthed abuse and shameful words from your lips...

It requires effort. But we can change, because we already belong to the new reality of God in Christ. The hard work was done on the cross, and now we are just changing our clothes to fit this new reality. More about the new clothes next week!