

Learning to Live Looking Down

Colossians 3:1-4

“These four verses, then, point to the believer’s **union with Christ** as the root principle of the whole Christian life. It is the point of departure and the source of power for all that he does.”

(Curtis Vaughan)

Colossians 3:1-4 gives us four heavenly qualities of living as a person made new **in Jesus Christ**—four characteristics of your spiritual union **with Jesus**.

This is you living in and for Jesus, which is your heavenly calling for living in this life now and in eternity.

I. The **Authenticity** of Your Life (Colossians 3:1)

Colossians 3:1 “since **you** have been raised up with Christ,”

Colossians 2:12 “...**you** were also raised up **with Him** through faith in the **working of God**, who raised **Him** from the dead.”

Colossians 2:13 “And when you were **dead** in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He made you alive together with Him...**”

I. The **Authenticity** of Your Life (Colossians 3:1)

You who were **spiritually dead** to God were made alive to God **through spiritual union** to His Son, Jesus Christ!

You have been **converted**, so be **consecrated**.

How? How do I live a life fully devoted to Jesus?

II. The **Aim** of Your Life (Colossians 3:1)

Keep seeking Jesus!

*“If then you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above, where Christ is...**”*

You have been given resurrection life, heavenly life, **so that** you can live to the honor of the King of Heaven **while you are briefly on this earth.**

The heavenly road to the heavenly life *now* is, *“that you may be filled with all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **so that** you may walk in a manner **worthy of the Lord, to please Him** in all respects...”* (Col. 1:9-10)

We live **from** heaven while **on** the earth.

II. The **Aim** of Your Life (Colossians 3:1)

Is your aim in life now to keep seeking the honor of Jesus in you?

What is the highest principle guiding the way that you think and live here and how? Is it **loving** and **honoring** Jesus?

III. The **Attitude** of Your Life (Colossians 3:2-3)

Keep **thinking** Jesus!

*“**Set your mind** on the things **above**, **not** the things that are on **earth**.”*

Set your mind on or be intent on the things above. Just as with keep seeking things above, we are to keep thinking things above.

This is about our perspective, our worldview, our way of **seeing** and **understanding** and **defining** the world we live in.

III. The **Attitude** of Your Life (Colossians 3:2-3)

“...**but now**...,” Jesus brought you near to Himself. How?

By dying **in your place**, “*in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach.*”

III. The **Attitude** of Your Life (Colossians 3:2-3)

Believers live new, like-God (godly) lives in a new, like-God realm because we have been transferred **from** Satan's spiritual kingdom and rule to God's spiritual kingdom and rule **through our union** with Jesus.

This is the atoning, saving, redeeming, and justifying work of God **joining** you with Jesus Christ, so that **God sees you in His Son, and He sees His Son in you.**

You are so **completely joined** to Jesus that your **old life** is dead **to** God, and your **new life** is hidden **with** Christ **in** God! In your new life in Jesus Christ, you are now a heavenly human!

III. The **Attitude** of Your Life (Colossians 3:2-3)

Your **source** of life is Jesus. Your **sphere** of life is the new domain, the new realm of God's heavenly kingdom where you are **positioned** and **placed** in Jesus Christ.

So **look down** on the matters of life **from** your new spiritual realm where your life has been **hidden with Christ** in God. Jesus is your life—seek Jesus, think Jesus, live Jesus.

We **follow our future!**

IV. The **Author** of Your Life (Colossians 3:4)

“Being thankful [to God] allows us to be a part of what’s **going on in heaven** even before we get there.... When you are thankful, you remember that you are living your life in **God’s presence**.... As soon as you are thankful, you start to see your life differently, **through God’s eyes**.... You are **thinking like heaven**, even if your circumstances seem more like something else.” *(Susan Lutz)*

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