

“Act Like It”

Colossians 3:1-4

Part 2 - You’ve Been Raised with Christ

Central Idea: The believer’s focus should be on the eternal.

I. The Commands Given (1-2)

- Command 1: “Keep seeking the things above” (1)
 - In contrast to the earthly things Paul has talked about
 - Command shows the believer’s present responsibility
- “Keep Seeking” = Continue to aim at, or strive after
 - Possible because we have been raised with Christ
- “Things above” = The things of heaven
 - Things that belong to the resurrection life
 - Must consciously seek these things out
- Christ’s present position shows that:
 - He has supreme privilege and divine authority
 - His work is completely finished (Heb 1:3)
- Command 2: “Set your mind on the things above” (2)
 - Continually think about heavenly things
 - In contrast to earthly, temporal things
- The heavenly should be a large part of our thought lives, because they will last
- We should view everything through the lens of eternity
- Though we live on earth, our citizenship is in heaven (Php. 3:20)
- Believers are to both seek heaven and think heaven
 - Our outer and inner lives should both be affected
 - These are the basics of the Christian life

II. The Reasons for the Given Commands (3-4)

- Past: Because “you have died” (3a)
 - This is why these commands are possible
 - Believers have died to things on earth
 - Our old way of life is dead, it should not factor into the new
- Present: Because “your life is hidden with Christ in God” (3b)
 - This action previously occurred, but the effect continues into the present
 - The believer’s life has been and still is hidden with Christ
 - Reason the commands are possible and to keep them
- Our resurrection life is not independent from Christ
 - Our life has been safely deposited in God with Christ
- Future: Because “you will be revealed with Him in glory” (4)
 - A reason to keep the commands
 - The revelation of Christ is certain, though the timing is unknown
 - When that occurs believers will share in His glory
 - Paul is likely referencing the rapture here
- Christ should dominate our thoughts and fill our lives
 - He is our currently hidden source of life
 - One day everyone will see His glory
 - All we need for acceptance and godly living is in Him

Application:

- Make Christ your focus
 - Outwardly, in the actions you take
 - Inwardly, in the thoughts you think
- Execute the basics
 - This is what God desires