

BEING THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Colossians 3:1-17

1. WE LOOK LIKE CHRIST WHEN WE LOOK AT 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. Colossians 3:1-3 (NIV)

- a. HE WON FOR US (3:1; Cf. Matthew 26:57-67; Acts 2:33; Acts 5:31; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 1:1-13; Colossians 2.10, 15): THEREFORE NO FEAR.
- b. HE RELEASED US (2:11-14); THEREFORE NO EXCUSES.

2. WE LOOK LIKE CHRIST WHEN WE LIVE WITH CHRIST'S PEOPLE (3:12, 15; Cf. 1:24, 2:19).

a. WE CONNECT WITH SUPERNATURAL GROWTH.

(Christ is) the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. Colossians 2:19 (NIV)

b. WE CONNECT WITH HUMAN SUPPORT. Colossians 2:19 (NIV)

From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16

- i. We suffer for each other like Christ (1:24).
- ii. We struggle for each other like Paul (1:28 - 2:2).
- iii. We pray for each other like Epaphras (4:12).

c. WE COMMIT TO CHRIST'S VALUES.

- i. SEXUAL VALUES—*sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, greed* (3:5-7).
- ii. SPEECH VALUES—*anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language, lies, racial remarks* (3:8-11).

d. WE CIRCULATE GRATITUDE.

- i. CHRIST'S PEACE DECIDES—*BE THANKFUL* (3:15)
- ii. CHRIST'S WORD INHABITS—*SING WITH GRATITUDE* (3:16).
- iii. CHRIST NAME CONTROLS—*GIVE THANKS* (3:17).