



Leader

9/22 - Colossians 3:1-4

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Dialogue]

2. Let's read our primary text. How have we been raised with Christ? What other passage(s) support this opening statement by Paul?

Romans 6:3-4 is helpful here---[3] *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? [4] We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.* Through our union with Christ, believers have died, have been buried, and have risen with Him. We are alive in Christ to the realities of the divine realm.

3. Paul tells us to "seek the things that are above" and to "set our mind on things that are above." What are "the things above"?

Christians should have a preoccupation with the things of God. This heavenly mindset should reshape our perspective and govern our earthly responses. Practically speaking, they are values that characterize Christ (tenderness, kindness, meekness, patience, wisdom, forgiveness, strength, purity, and love) and also the Holy Spirit (fruit of the Spirit). We must interpret the world around according to the heavenly reality above us.

4. Why does Scripture always refer to God's "right hand"? Where else have you notice this in Scripture? What does this phrase represent?

The right hand of God represents Christ's authority, honor, majesty, and supremacy. We see this phrase used many times (see Luke 22:69; Acts 5:31; Eph. 1:20).

5. When you are a Christian, when does "death" take place, as referenced in this passage?

A believer dies "with" Christ upon salvation (faith in Christ). Christ offers the atonement (covering) of our sin by placing the "wages of sin," which is death, upon Himself (propitiation). Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, *"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come."*

6. How are our lives "hidden" in Christ?

It means many things, but these three takeaways are helpful. Our hidden life in Christ signifies (1) our personal relationship with Him, (2) affirms the security of our salvation in Him (we are clothed in His righteousness, not marked by our own sin), and (3) it certifies our glorious inheritance in Him. (Ephesians 1:3-13 captures all of this well).

7. What is your main takeaway from these opening verses?

[Dialogue - Examples: "Christ is my life" OR "Christ is the center of the believer's universe"]

8. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is it apparent to others that Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity? Would anyone like to share the gospel with the group?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

Sources:

- Christ-Centered Exposition (Colossians and Philemon). Pace, Akin.
- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- The McArthur Commentary Series (Colossians and Philemon).