

## “IF... YOU WERE RAISED WITH CHRIST”

### INTRODUCTION

- A. **Colossians 3:1-25**
  - B. To be *“raised with Christ”* requires baptism.
    - 1. **Colossians 2:12**  
The burial of baptism results in being *“raised with Him.”*
    - 2. **Romans 6:3-5**
      - a. When we are baptized with Christ, we share in His death (3).
      - b. *“Just as Christ was raised from the dead,”* we walk in newness of life (4).
      - c. Sharing with Christ in death, results in sharing His resurrection (5).
  - C. *“If then you were raised with Christ...”*
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- I. **“SEEK THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOVE”**
    - A. **Colossians 3:1**
      - 1. “Seek” is used in the sense of coveting earnestly, striving after.
      - 2. The object of our search is, of course, that which is above.
        - a. **Joshua 2:11**
          - i. The scripture sets heaven as that which is above, with earth being beneath.
          - ii. Therefore, our search is for the heavenly.
        - b. Moreover, we are to seek *“where Christ is.”*
          - i. **Mark 16:19**
          - ii. **Ephesians 1:20**
          - iii. **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:21-22**
    - B. **Colossians 3:2**

1. **Matthew 6:19-21**

Paul plainly charges us to “set your mind on things above.”

2. Contrarily, our minds must not be upon the “things on the earth.”

a. **Titus 2:11-12**

To live godly in this present age, we must deny the desires we have in this world.

b. **Romans 8:5-6; 12:2**

c. **Matthew 16:26**

The profit of the whole world cannot match the value of our souls.

C. **Colossians 3:3-4**

1. Why should we seek the things above? Because we died to sin and have committed our lives to God!

a. **Galatians 2:20**

b. **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:14-15**

2. Consequently, a glorious life awaits us when Christ returns.

a. **John 14:6**

b. **Philippians 3:20-21**

II. **“PUT TO DEATH YOUR MEMBERS WHICH ARE ON THE EARTH”**

A. **Colossians 3:5-7**

1. What is the Christian instructed to put to death?

a. Answer: “your members which are on the earth.”

b. What are those?

i. “Fornication.”

ii. “Uncleanness.”

iii. “Passion.”

iv. “Evil desire.”

v. *“Covetousness, which is idolatry.”*

2. For what reason would we desire to put these things to death?
  - a. Because such incurs the wrath of God (6)!
  - b. Furthermore, we used to walk in these things (7). If we have become new, why would we desire to turn back to the ways of the world?

**B. Matthew 5:29-30**

1. Jesus taught the same doctrine of mortification.
2. Those things which offend us, that is the things that keep us from wholly serving God, ought to be severed!

**III. “PUT OFF THE OLD MAN”**

**A. Colossians 3:8-9**

In putting off the old man, what characteristics must be abandoned?

1. *“Anger.”*
2. *“Wrath.”*
3. *“Malice.”*
4. *“Blasphemy.”*
5. *“Filthy language.”*
6. Lying.

**B. Romans 6:5-7**

What kind of a resurrection would it be if the old man were kept?

**IV. “PUT ON THE NEW MAN”**

**A. Colossians 3:10-14**

Since we have put *“off the old man,”* and are *“renewed in knowledge,”* what ought we to put on?

1. *“Tender mercies.”*
2. *“Kindness.”*

3. *"Humility."*
4. *"Meekness."*
5. *"Longsuffering."*
6. Forbearance.
7. Forgiveness.
8. *"Love."*

**B. Ephesians 4:20-24**

1. Life in Christ demands a change!
2. In putting on these various virtues, we are created again, *"according to God in true righteousness and holiness."*

**V. "LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE"**

**A. Colossians 3:15**

Too many people are busy seeking peace on earth, when if they would just seek God, His peace would rule within.

**B. John 14:27; 16:33**

1. Jesus left peace with us.
2. His words bring us peace. There won't be peace in the world, but it will always be available in Christ.

**C. Romans 12:18**

Having peace from Christ, peacefulness ought to characterize our interactions with others.

1. **Romans 14:19**
2. **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:11**

**VI. "BE THANKFUL"**

**A. Colossians 3:15**

Having achieved peace, we must grateful.

**B. Luke 17:11-19**

Nevertheless, it would seem that the majority of people lack simple thankfulness.

C. **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:18; Hebrews 13:5**

Christians are a thankful people. We've got a lot to appreciate.

**VII. "LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY"**

A. **Colossians 3:16**

B. **Ephesians 5:18-19**

By comparing these passages, we come to understand that by letting the word of Christ dwell in us, we are actually "*filled with the spirit.*"

1. This answers so much as to the operation of the Holy Spirit in the Christian.
2. The spirit has no power apart from the extent to which we meditate upon the law of Christ.

C. Does God's word abide in you?

1. **Deuteronomy 11:18-20**
2. **Psalms 119:11**

D. One who is "*filled with the spirit*" and allows the word of Christ to dwell in him is one who enjoys:

1. Teaching and admonishing others through:
  - a. Psalms.
  - b. Hymns.
  - c. Spiritual songs.
2. Singing from the heart to God.
  - a. **James 5:13**
  - b. **Acts 16:25**

**VIII. "DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS"**

A. **Colossians 3:17**

**B. By His Authority**

1. **Acts 19:11-16**

To act in the name of Christ is more than a mere magical incantation. We can't just do whatever we want and think that saying the name of Jesus is sufficient to make it right.

2. **Matthew 28:18-20**

To do something in His name means that it is according to His authority and He does have **all** authority.

**C. Praying through Him**

1. **John 14:13-14; 16:23**

Jesus taught us not to pray to Him, but through Him.

2. **Romans 1:8; 7:25**

This is how the apostle Paul prayed.

**IX. "WIVES... HUSBANDS... CHILDREN... FATHERS"**

**A. Colossians 3:18-21**

1. **"Wives, submit to your own husbands as is fitting in the Lord" (18).**

Notice that wives submitting to husbands cannot possibly be passé; it is not limited to time or location; it is *"fitting in the Lord"*.

**a. Ephesians 5:22-24**

A woman risen with Christ will be a submissive wife as God has assigned her such a role in the family.

**b. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:1-6**

Godly women will observe the example of Sarah, who rendered honor unto her husband.

2. **"Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them" (19).**

Love should rule out bitterness.

**a. Ephesians 5:25, 28, 33**

The husband who has risen with Christ will love his wife in the same manner in which Christ loves the church, loving her as he cherishes himself.

**b. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:7**

In avoiding bitterness, a godly husband will seek to understand his spouse and honor her since he shares with her the grace of life.

**3. “Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord” (20).**

**a. Ephesians 6:1-3**

- i.** Obedience “*in all things*” is here qualified by the phrase “*in the Lord*”, which allows for an exception when God would be disobeyed if the parents were obeyed (Acts 5:29). Otherwise, children must obey their parents.
- ii.** Not only must parents be obeyed, but they must be honored, as well, which demands sincerity in obedience.
- iii.** This is referred to as the “*first commandment with promise*” insomuch as it is the only one of the Ten Commandments with a promise attached to it (Exodus 20:12), namely extended life. Those children who obey their parents when instructed not to play in the street are likely to outlive those who don’t, and those who obey their parents when taught to abstain from alcohol and drugs will probably survive those who don’t.

**b. Romans 1:30, 32**

Disobedience toward parents is actually a sin worthy of death.

**c. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:1-5**

It is perilous, that is dangerous, to disobey parents. Such people should be avoided.

**4. “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged” (21).**

**a. Ephesians 6:4**

Instead of discouraging children, godly fathers will train them in the ways of God.

**b. Deuteronomy 6:6-9**

Such instruction must be constant.

**c. Proverbs 22:6**

This is the best way to insure that a child will be faithful to God in adulthood.

**B.** Being risen with Christ will improve family relationships!

**X. “BONDSERVANTS, OBEY... YOUR MASTERS”**

**A. Colossians 3:22-24**

When servants are risen with Christ, they’re still servants!

**1.** To their masters upon the earth, they become better servants.

**2.** But more than that:

**a.** They are the servants of God.

**b.** The work they do for man is likened to that service they offer toward God.

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:1-2**

Some servants may feel excused from their duties if the master is a Christian, but that is not so. Their duties are all the more important when they can serve a fellow Christian.

**C. Titus 2:9-10**

To adorn God's teaching, a servant will obey his master, not backtalk, and never take what is not his.

**D. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-20**

All this is true, regardless of how poorly the master may treat the servant.

**CONCLUSION**

**A. *"If then you were raised with Christ..."***

1. *"Seek those things which are above."*
2. *"Put to death your members which are on the earth."*
3. *"Put off the old man."*
4. *"Put on the new man."*
5. *"Let the peace of God rule."*
6. *"Be thankful."*
7. *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."*
8. *"Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus."*
9. *"Submit," "love," "obey," and "do not provoke" within the family.*
10. *"Obey in all things your masters."*

**B. If you are not risen with Christ, now is the time to change that!**

1. **Colossians 2:12**
2. **Romans 6:3-4**