

APPLICATION

- Reflect on Colossians 3:3 and Galatians 2:20. What do you think these mean? Take some time to meditate on these passages in the coming week.
- How has what you set your mind on this past week affected the quality of your life and relationship with God and others?
- How have you experienced God's love? How do you think you can put on God's love this week? What would that look like? (e.g., forgiveness, compassion, reconciliation)

PRAYER

- Thank God for bringing you into His kingdom, where His love is worth more than anything we can find on earth. Pray that you would continually live a life hidden in Christ.
- Pray for His grace as you are continually transformed to be more like Him, putting to death what is worldly in you.
- Ask God to reveal to you a person to whom you need to show love (compassion, kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness). Pray that you would put on love and point people to Christ.

JESUS.

Living under the Lordship of Christ

WEEK 3

WARM-UP

- What possession do you always keep in a safe place? Why is it precious to you?
- What is one food you used to hate that you now love? What made you change your mind?
- How would you characterize yourself in terms of your possessions? Would you consider yourself to be an expert in decluttering or do you have a hard time doing this? Expound on your answer.

WORD *¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

(Read also **COLOSSIANS 3.**)

Paul describes believers as having died, having been raised with Christ, and having our lives hidden with Christ in God. This means that our old sinful lives have been dealt with on the cross. Not only are we forgiven, but we also have been cut off from the power of sin. The lives we now live, we live for God. In this lesson, we will look at what it looks like to live under the Lordship of Christ as a result of the abovementioned truth.

1 | We seek and set our minds on heavenly things.

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

COLOSSIANS 3:1-2

(Read also **COLOSSIANS 3:3-4**.)

Because we have already died to sin, we are no longer to set our minds on fulfilling our old sinful desires. Under Christ's Lordship, we now live our lives in an intimate relationship with Him as the source of our life and our reason for living. It is only reasonable that we seek Him and the things of God. When we set our minds on Him, we acknowledge that He is the One who continually fills our thoughts. We consider how to please and show our love for Him. What are the results of setting our minds on things of the Spirit according to Romans 8:6?

2 | We put to death what is worldly in us.

*⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. . . . ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. **COLOSSIANS 3:5, 8***

Living set apart for God means putting to death whatever belongs to old sinful nature. We are to no longer engage and interact with those things, just as we no longer interact with people who have already passed away. Our former ways no

longer have a place in a life that is united with Christ. Many times in Scripture, life and death are not about heaven or hell but about either experiencing or being cut off from the quality of life that God wants us to have. How does Romans 6:12-13 describe this truth? What are the benefits of putting to death the deeds of the old sinful nature?

3 | We put on the love of Christ.

*¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **COLOSSIANS 3:12-14***

As God's beloved now set apart for Him, we are to put on the love we have received from Christ. We put on our new self, which is being renewed to reflect the image of God. As we consider ourselves dead to sin and set apart for God, we learn to love and forgive others as He loved and forgave us. Under His Lordship, we become more compassionate, kind, humble, meek, and patient toward others. What does Colossians 3:17 have to say about the ultimate motivation for our actions toward those around us?
