

# CHRIST: THE HOPE OF GLORY

Liberated to Seek, Slay and Show Jesus

Part 5 // Colossians 3:1-17 // Marcelo Pinell

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## I. RESCUE OF CHRIST (Col 1-2; 2:20-23)

- A. Beware of Soul Robbers & Corrupt Judges (Col 2:8, 16, 18)
- B. Beat-down by the Supreme Reconciler, Christ Jesus (2:9-15)
- C. Baseless Self-Made Religion vs. Christ Jesus (2:20-23)

## II. RAISED WITH CHRIST (Col 3:1-4)

- A. New Location and Loving Lens (Col 3:1-2)
- B. New Life and Likeness (Col 3:3-4)

## III. RECKONING OF CHRIST (Col 3:5-11)

- A. Kill Sin or Sin shall Devour You (Col 3:5)
- B. King Slays Sinners: Supper & Doom of Yahweh (Col 3:6-7)
- C. Karen → Strip-off the Spiteful Storm & Deadly Yapping (Col 3:8-11)

## IV. RENEWAL IN CHRIST (Col 3:12-17)

- A. Put on the Uniform of Godly Attributes (Col 3:12)
- B. Practice Unmerited Grace Towards Another (Col 3:13)
- C. Participate Uniformly Through the Garment of Amor (Col 3:14)
- D. Peace Undergirds & Truth Grips the Athletes (Col 3:15-16)
- E. Play Ultimately for The Glory of the Anointed (Col 3:17)

## V. RESPONDING TO CHRIST

### COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

#### Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

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1. Paul reminds the Colossians that they've been raised with Christ—a complete change of identity through the work the Triune God. Because believers share in His resurrection life through the Spirit, their loyalties and longings are no longer bound to the old world.
  - What does it practically mean to “seek the things above” in a city like LA that constantly calls us to seek approval, status, experiences? How does remembering you died and your life is “hidden with Christ” reshape you engage with social media, view identity, career success, or reputation?
  - In what ways do you forget your new life in Christ during ordinary life (school, work, family)? What rhythms or reminders can help set your mind “above”? How might a gospel-rooted identity free you from the fear and praise of man, insecurity, or burnout?
2. Paul called believers to *reckon* their old nature as dead. The language is radical: “Put to death... The false teachers in Colossae offered external fixes to the evil desires of the heart, but Paul insists transformation begins with a new heart united to Christ. Why does Paul use such strong language— “put to death”—for sin? What does that tell us about its danger? What does this reveal about the Christian life and sanctification?
3. According to Paul in Col 3:5, sin is not just bad behavior, but it is *misplaced worship*. We tend to seek sinful sensuality because we love, trust, find more satisfaction and even fear losing it more than God. As a result, we will burst out in unrighteous anger and wage war with our words when what we ultimately love (i.e. pleasure, comfort, safety, control, relationships) comes under threat.
  - In what ways does our culture normalize, even worship or glamorize the sins listed in Col 3:5, 8?
  - Take time together to reflect on what controls your imagination and affections? How do you tend to respond in stressful situations, when you fear losing something or when obstacles get in the way of what you crave gaining? Do any of these things reveal a functional savior?
  - How do the old self and ways of the world still try to shape your reactions, speech, and desires? What forms of idolatry are most tempting in you today—careerism, body image, sex?
4. David Powlison describes repentance as “a change in worship”- moving from self-worship and idol-worship to the worship of the true God. How does this encourage you to confess your sin and repent in such a way that it is more than just guilt management? What role do confession, community, and accountability play in “putting to death” sin without falling into shame? How does the gospel—Christ’s death and resurrection—give power and hope to fight sin that self-help never can? What sins do you need to confess, repent of and put off?
5. Having stripped off the old self, believers now “put on” the new self—clothed in Christlikeness. This is the portrait of the *new humanity* renewed in Christ’s image. In a diverse, divided age like ours, verses 11-17 describe the kind of Spirit-formed unity the world cannot produce.
  - Which of the “new self” virtues (vv. 12–14) and Christ motivated actions (i.e. bearing and/or forgiving one another) feels hardest to wear right now—and why? what might that reveal about your heart’s priorities?
  - How does “letting the peace of Christ rule” and the word of God dwelling in your heart challenge the way you handle conflict or differences in church, family, or online?
  - How can gratitude (“be thankful,” v. 15) act as a spiritual weapon against envy, comparison, or entitlement in a culture driven by success and Instagram likes? Put this weapon to action, what can you give thanks to God for when jealousy, over-criticalness and comparison creeps in?
  - How might your family, small group or our local church better reflect the “one body” unity brought by our union with Christ amid the political, racial divides and self-centeredness displayed in our city and world.