

Jesus First. Jesus ALWAYS: Since You've Been Raised (Colossians 3:1-23)
Andy Deane • March 22, 2026

C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*, wrote, “Every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before. And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing either into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature: either into a creature that is in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and with its fellow-creatures, and with itself. To be the one kind of creature is heaven: that is, it is joy and peace and knowledge and power. To be the other means madness, horror, idiocy, rage, impotence, and eternal loneliness.”

SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN RAISED WITH CHRIST...

We Set our Hearts & Minds on Christ

Before we're told what to do, reminds us who we are!

Colossians 3:1-4

- We're a new creation: raised with Christ
- We're given access to God: set your hearts/minds on things above
- We're secure: your life is now hidden with Christ
- We're on Jesus' team: Christ...appears...you...will appear
- We're going to be: glory (ious)

We Put Off the Old Life & Put On the New

Now Paul moves from identity to transformation.

Colossians 3:5-17

- Put to death the old sinful nature: sexual sins (sexual immorality, impurity, lust), selfish sins (evil desires & greed), relational sins (anger, rage, malice), and destructive speech (slander, filthy language, lying).
- Kenneth Boa stated this in his book, *Conformed to His Image*, “Whenever you're tempted, you can say this; that action is beneath the dignity of the new person I have become in Christ. That's not who I am.”
- John Owen in his 1656 book, *The Mortification of Sin*, wrote, “Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you.” He shares these basic ideas on how to kill sin (paraphrased below):
 - Recognize the Seriousness of Sin
 - Fill Your Mind With the Gospel
 - Rely on the Holy Spirit & Pray
 - Attack Sin at the Desire Level
 - Starve Sin & Strengthen Holiness
 - Remember Sin's Consequences
 - Fight Often, Not Occasionally
- Put on the character of Christ: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, love, unity, forgiveness, gratitude, and peace.
- Just like you don't accidentally clothe yourself in the morning, we need to pause to pray that God would clothe us in Christlike character before we see anyone.

We Let Christ Rule Our Relationships

Paul now shows where this new life shows up most clearly, our home and our workplace (or oppressive environments).

Colossians 3:18-4:1

- Jesus makes broken marriages better.
 - I know this verse (v.18) has been misused at times to justify control or inequality—and that's wrong. That's not God. It's not about value or worth. It's not forced (it's offered). It's qualified (not when the request is sinful).
 - If verse this (v.19) is the kind of husband you are, then it's easier for her to offer let you lead.
 - Biblical roles in marriage are not about power—they're about reflecting Jesus, like Christ's humility to submit to the Father, and His loving sacrifice when He died to save us. Both are just opportunities to be Christlike. Jesus doesn't ask us to do anything He didn't do.
 - When we understand God's original design for marriages, it has the power to heal what our culture has distorted and reshape how we see marriage.
 - Pastor Andy went into more detail on these topics in his Ephesians 5 message on marriage: [WATCH](#)
- Jesus makes broken parenting better.
 - I'm sure all kids love memorizing this verse (v. 20). If you have kids, pray about how you can share the wisdom of God's good plan when you talk about this with them. We asked a CCS high school student, Dylan Kelly, to write an app article aimed at middle school and high school students, on how he thinks through this verse. You'll find it in the app this week.

- Fathers are specifically encouraged to not embitter their kids or else they could become really discouraged (v.21). Parents, how can we correct, share advice, change our tone of voice or timing, to best minister to our kids without discouraging them?
- This may be a good place to mention that we have a Parenting Teens Mixed Life Group starting April 14th: Learn more.
- Jesus makes broken workplaces better.
 - The Bible does not endorse slavery, but it does offer hope to people who are stuck in an oppressive situation they may not be able to change.
 - Historically, these verses (vv. 3:22-4:1), have been taught with workplace application to make them more relevant for today's listeners. This is not an attempt to dismiss the important topic of slavery. If you are interested in what the Bible says about slavery there will be an app article with more explanation and it will also include links to amazing ministries that fight the modern forms of slavery like sex trafficking and labor trafficking.
- **WORKPLACE PRINCIPLES WE SEE:**
 - Integrity is who you are when supervision disappears (v. 22).
 - Lazy work is a spiritual issue not just a professional one (v. 23).
 - God rewards what the workplace overlooks (v. 24).
 - Anyone who does wrong will be judged by God (v. 25).
 - If you have authority you are accountable for how you use it (v. 4:1)
 - We see from these verses that how we work reveals who we are serving. Work is more than a paycheck, it's worship!

This week, let's remember that because we've been raised with Christ, we can set our mind on Him, strip off the old life of sin, and let Him rule every relationship we have.