

Living the New You

Colossians 3:1-5

*If you've struggled with long-term habits of sin,
and you can't seem to overcome them,
it could very well be that you haven't yet grasped or put
into practice the truths in this passage or others like it.*

1. Embrace your new identity

- ◆ In Christ, you're not the same you you used to be!
 - You are indwelt by the Holy Spirit
 - You have a new heart, a new ability to understand spiritual truth, a new power over sin, a new desire to please God, a new ability to obey God
- ◆ Becoming a Christian is a supernatural work of God

1. Embrace your new identity

- A. You have died with Christ – (your “old you” in Adam)
(Col. 3:3)
- B. You have been raised with Christ (Col. 3:1; 2 Cor. 5:17)
 - Sin no longer has dominion in your life (Rom. 6:6-7, 14, 22)
 - The important question: *Do you believe it?*

1. Embrace your new identity

“In practical terms, this means that we must affirm two things to be true. On the one hand, we will never be able to say, ‘I am completely free from sin,’ because our sanctification will never be completed (on this side of heaven). But on the other hand, a Christian should never say (for example), ‘This sin has defeated me. I give up. I have had a bad temper for 37 years, and I will have one until the day I die, and people are just going to have to put up with me the way I am!’ To say this is to say that sin has gained dominion. It is to allow sin to reign in our bodies. It is to admit defeat. It is to deny the truth of Scripture, which tells us, ‘You also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus’ (Romans 6:11). It is to deny the truth of Scripture that tells us ‘sin will have no dominion over you’ (Romans 6:14).”

Wayne Grudem

1. Embrace your new identity

c. Christ is your life (Col. 3:4)

“he [Jesus] died for all, that those who live might *no longer* live for themselves *but for him* who for their sake died and was raised.” (2 Cor. 5:15)

2. Commit to being renewed

“People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise... disobedience... the indiscipline of lost self-control... prayerlessness and... godlessness.”

D. A. Carson

2. Commit to being renewed

- A. Seek the things that are above (Col. 3:1)
 - The Lordship of Christ in your life
- B. Renew your mind (Col. 3:2)
 - Don't be swayed by the world
 - Don't set your mind on earthly immorality (Col. 3:5ff)
 - But be saturated with biblical truth! (Col. 3:16)
- c. Put sin to death (Col. 3:5ff)

3. Rejoice in the final you

One day our struggle with sin will be over and we'll be like Jesus! (Col. 3:4; 1 John 3:2)