


# Youth Church

## Colossians 3:1-17

Last week we looked at our security in Christ and what that means, this week we are onto 3:1-17. So grab a Bible and read through the passage a few times and have a think about what it could mean!



WHAT IS THE KEY VERSE?  
WHAT ARE THE REPEATED WORDS?  
WHAT SURPRISES YOU?  
WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT THE COLOSSIAN CHURCH?  
WHAT IS PAUL'S MAIN POINT IN THIS PASSAGE?  
HOW DOES THIS PASSAGE APPLY TO YOUR LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN?

### Bible Study

Focus on things above..  
Verses 2-3 sound quite similar to Jesus' sermon on the mount (this is found in Matthew 5-7, if you want to read it). Jesus warns about storing up treasures on earth because eventually they will all fade. Neither Jesus or Paul are denying all good things are gifts from God or that they are irrelevant. They are explaining that these things are not permanent and that Christ has something much better.

Waiting...

I wonder have you ever had to wait for something?  
Maybe you were waiting for a new phone but it wasn't going to be ready for two weeks or maybe you had to wait on someone else to get ready so you could go out. There are two types of waiting, one is sitting doing nothing, bored out of your mind waiting for whatever it is to happen. The other time of waiting is rushing to get everything ready, you probably notice parents or family members cleaning your house and getting all food ready when guests are arriving soon (before the pandemic!).  
The second kind of waiting is what we should be doing when waiting for Christ to return. We should be doing everything we can to share the news about his return and prepare for it! We should wait in confidence and security not anxiousness or nervousness.

### FOCUS ON ABOVE AND WAITING

Being 'In Christ...'

In the passage today Paul is discussing the differences in Christian identity compared to a worldly identity. He talks about what it means to be 'in Christ.' This is not a new idea Paul mentioned this in the opening verses in his letter:

(1:2) - 'In Colossae...in Christ'

Paul is explaining that despite them being born in Colossae and living in that culture, everything has changed now they are 'in Christ.' They have new a address which results in a new culture. In other words, they should be different and people who known them previously should see a change. Have another read over verse 3 again, 'since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.' This verse can be a wee bit confusing, but here, Paul is explaining that when Christ rose, those in Christ rose with Him, because Jesus rose and ascended to heaven we have to, that is our home. So that means it is only natural to 'set your hearts on things above.' Now Paul isn't talking about materialistic things here, he is talking about seeking to be in Gods presence for eternity, the 'above all things' are everything that flows from the place where Christ is.

### Being in Christ

**Sexual immorality      Impurity**

**Evil desires      malice      slander**

**Greed      Anger      Lust      rage**

**Earthly things...**

**Compassion      love      Kindness**

**dearly loved people**

**Gentleness**

**chosen people**

**Holy people      Patience**

**Humility**

**In Christ...**

**forgive**

Seeing the two lists side by side show how polar opposite they really are! Now this is not an extensive list and this is not Paul saying 'do this, do that' but rather, he is explaining that earthly things are incompatible with being in Christ. We should hold ourselves and each other accountable and talk to God, and say sorry when we mess up (which we all do, every single day). But this shouldn't be out of fear of what God will do or that He will love us any less! Think back to last week when we learnt that our security is solely on what Christ done for us, rather than what we do for Him.

## **Reflection**



Make a list of what you think makes up your identity. Maybe this is who your family are, friends, the school you go to, the hobbies you enjoy. Honestly, put them in order which seem most important to you. Where does your identity in Christ sit in the list? Why is that? And how can it be made the highest priority?