

Our new mindset

Colossians 3:1-17

Introduction

What would you say that most people around you are wanting out of life? What is it that your non-Christians friends are pursuing? What sort of mindset do they have?

The mindset of believers is to be completely different from those who belong to this world. In verses 1 to 4 of chapter 3 the apostle Paul told the Colossians to seek and to set their minds on the things above and then went on in verses 5 to 17 to describe what that such a mindset looks like in terms of their lives here and now while we wait for the appearance of the Lord Jesus.

Our mindset

Please read verses 1 to 4 to understand the mindset that those who have died and been raised with Christ are to have.

1. What does it mean to seek the things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of Father?
2. What does it mean to have our minds set on the things above and why are we to live this way?

Think about it

What things make it hard to keep this mindset at the centre of our lives and how can we encourage one another to keep on doing this?

Our character

Such a mindset works itself out in our character and is seen in how we live in this world. In verses 5 to 14 Paul describes the life of those who have their minds and desires set on the things above. Paul says that they were to put to death what belongs to our earthly nature and put on or clothe themselves with those virtues that align with who we are now in Christ. Please read verses 5 to 11 to understand what the apostle tells us to put to death and get rid of.

3. What sort of things are believers to put to death?
4. What other things are believers to get rid of?
5. What reasons does Paul give the believers for why these things are no longer appropriate for those who have died and been raised with Christ?

Think about it

What does it practically mean to keep putting these things to death or to get rid of them?

Why do you think Paul mentions that greed is idolatry?

We are not just to put off the old filthy garments of our old life, but we are to clothe ourselves with Christ (c.f. Romans 13:14). Please read verses 12 to 14 again to understand the apparel that is appropriate for those who are God's chosen people.

6. Paul lists 5 virtues that we are to clothe ourselves. Please explain what these are and why they are important for bearing with and forgiving one another.

7. Paul says that over all these virtues that we are to put on love. Why is love so important?

8. Why are we to clothe ourselves with these virtues?

Think about it

What do we have our minds set on if we have them set on earthly things and what do we have them set on if we have them set on the things above?

What things do you need to get rid of? What things in your life are incompatible with having been raised with Christ?

Christ's rule

Please read verses 15 to 17.

9. What does it mean for the peace of Christ to rule in the hearts of believers?

10. How do we understand what Christ' rule looks like and what does it mean for us and the way that we live as we wait for his coming?

Think about it

What is the person like who is seeking the things above?

How can we do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus?