

With CHRIST (part 2 of 2: Our Secret)

I. WITH CHRIST: FREED AND QUALIFIED

A. WHAT THE CROSS IS "THEREFORE"(Col 2:13-15)

CHRIST IS RISEN!
THE RECORD CANCELED. THE RESULT NAILED. THE RULERS DISARMED.
THE RELATIONSHIP RESTORED.

B. SHADOWS OR SUBSTANCE (Col 2:16-23)

-stop confusing empty RITUALS with authentic FAITH!

C. NOURISHED, KNIT TOGETHER, GROWING! (vs 19)

1. Jesus: our nourisher
2. Jesus: our unifier
3. Jesus: our grower

D. IT'S FINISHED... NOW LIVE LIKE IT (vs 20-22)

II. WITH CHRIST: OUR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE (Col 3:1-4)

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

A. Seeking and Setting

B. Christ our whole life

1. Raised with Christ
2. Hidden with Christ in God
3. Will Appear with Christ in Glory

III. OFF WITH THE OLD AND ON WITH THE NEW (Col 3:5-11)

A. NEW AMBITIONS (vs 5-6)

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **6** On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

1. Dysfunctional Ambitions:

- What we sought and desired: Self-pleasure
- Where we set our minds: We need to use others

2. Healthy Ambition:

- What we now seek and desire: God's Kingdom
- Where we now set our minds: We get to serve one another

WITH CHRIST WE ARE CALLED TO PUT TO DEATH THE OLD SELF:
MOVING FROM SELFISH AMBITION TO GOD'S AMBITION

B. NEW STANDARDS (vs 7-10)

7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

1. Dysfunctional Standards:

- What we sought and desired: Self-promotion
- Where we set our minds: We need to diminish others

2. Healthy Standards:

- What we now seek and desire: Christ's glory
- Where we now set our minds: We get to forgive one another

WITH CHRIST WE ARE CALLED OUT OF THE OLD MODEL:
MOVING FROM THE SUBSTANDARD TO CHRIST'S STANDARD

C. NEW RELATIONSHIPS (vs 11)

11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

1. Dysfunctional Relationships:

- What we sought and desired: Self-preservation
- Where we set our minds: We need to separate others

2. Healthy Relationships:

- What we now seek and desire: The Church's unity
- Where we now set our minds: We get to love one another

WITH CHRIST WE ARE CALLED TOGETHER:
MOVING OUT OF SEPARATION AND INTO UNITY

SO OFF WITH THE OLD,
PUT ON THE NEW.
THERE'S LIFE THAT'S HAND-CRAFTED, TAILOR MADE,
& WELL-FITTED IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.
WITH NEW AMBITIONS, NEW STANDARDS, & NEW RELATIONSHIPS,
BE CLOTHED IN HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.