

New Perspective

Jesus brought a fresh new life for people of the world who were looking for a change.

The life and ministry of Jesus can still affect people today and bring a fresh, new change of heart *and* mind.

But ...

Change is a DECISION.

Colossians 3:1-4

*“Since, then, you have been raised [resurrected] with Christ, **set your hearts** on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² **Set your minds** on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

Death with Christ involves an intentional effort to participate in His resurrected life.

When we do, a power is released in us that offers the ability to rise above the appetites and attitudes of our earthly nature.

This is a command to exercise the will of your own spirit (**heart**) to engage in the Holy Spirit’s power in your life (**mind**).

This is not a suggestion for something to consider.

“...set your hearts on things above, where Christ is...” (Verse 1.)

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” (Verse 2.)

Nor is this something that will be automatic after you have surrendered your life to Christ.

More specifically, this is a directive about our attitude and perspective about life and the world around us.

First Things first! (Let's just let the scripture teach.)

ENGAGE your Mind.

⁵ *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*

⁶ *Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.*

⁷ *You used to [before your commitment to Christ] walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.*

⁸ *But now you must also...*

...rid yourselves of all such things as these:

anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other,

...since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."

Engage your HEART.

We are all equal, but we need to develop a heart that is inclusive, and not divisive.

¹¹ *Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but **Christ is all, and is in all.***

¹² *Therefore, as God's chosen people, **holy and dearly loved,***

We have been changed to be God's chosen ones, made new, separated from the nature of segregation, and treated with the ultimate expression of love by God himself.

So,

- ❖ *"... clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*
 - ¹³ ***Bear with each other*** [NLT – "Make allowance for each other's faults"]
 - *and **forgive one another** if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."*
- ❖ *"¹⁴ And over all these virtues **put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.**"*
- ❖ *"¹⁵ **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.***
- ❖ *"And **be thankful.***
- ❖ *"¹⁶ **Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.***
- ❖ *"¹⁷ And **whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,***
- ❖ *"**giving thanks to God the Father through him.**"*

Now, you look new!

You have a fresh perspective on life, on people, and on your deeper purpose as a believer.