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**Sermon: *“United with Christ: A Glorious Identity”***

**Scripture: Colossians 3:1-4**

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Sunday, November 17, 2019

**Introduction:**

Legalism, mysticism and asceticism are counterfeit identities with no lasting value. (2:16-23)

Colossians 3:1-4 is Paul’s transition from theological truth (*1:1-2:23)* to apostolic application *(3:5-4:25).* Good theology leads to godly practice.

Every believer has a new identity in Christ. *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

1. **Our new identity is rooted in our union with Christ.** *(v. 1a)*

* **At the heart of what it means to be a Christian is to be united with Christ.**
* **In Christ, every believer…**

Was chosen *(Ephesians 1:4)*

Receives grace *(2 Timothy 1:9)*

Is redeemed and forgiven *(Ephesians 1:7)*

Is made alive *(Ephesians 2:4-6)*

Is made righteous *(2 Corinthians 5:21)*

Is a new creation *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Is unconditionally loved *(Romans 8:38-39)*

Is a child of God *(Galatians 3:26)*

1. **Our new identity produces a heavenly focus.** *(v. 1b-2)*

* The Christian with their mind set upon Christ will not withdraw from the world.
* The Christian with their mind set upon Christ will no longer live as if this world is all that matters. *(Colossians 3:5-4:6)*

**Only through the lens of the cross can we see life and eternity clearly.**

1. **Our new identity enjoys divine security.** *(v. 3)*

***Scripture:*** *2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:6-10*

1. **Every believer has died to sin’s domination and their past identity.**

***Scripture:*** *2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 2:20*

1. **Every believer is hidden in Christ.**
   * The believer is eternally secure in Christ.  *(John 10:28-29)*
   * The believer is beautifully obscure in Christ. *(John 3:30; Colossians 1:18; Galatians 6:14)*
2. **Our new identity will be fully revealed at Christ’s return.** *(v. 4)*

* Our future glory with Christ is as certain as though it has already occurred. *(Romans 8:29-30)*
* Our new identity demands that we live in light of earth’s passing & our eternal glory with Christ. *(Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 2:17; 3:2-3 Revelation 21:3-4)*

**“We continually make the profound mistake of looking horizontally**

**for what can only be found vertically: earth will never be your savior.”** *Paul Tripp*

**Questions to Consider:**

1. What counterfeit or substitute identities do we seek in this world?
2. Based on Colossians 3:1-4, is it possible to be “so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly good”? Why or why not?
3. What does it mean to be “with Christ,” “in Christ” or “united with Christ”?
4. What are the benefits of our union with Christ?
5. How is God glorified through our security and obscurity in Christ?
6. What keeps us from living in light of our future glory?