

Rooted in Christ So We Can Live New Lives

Message 3 of 4 in the series "Rooted"

A. Jesus came to give us new lives.

"...Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them... **This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person.** The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:14b-17 (NLT)

"For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, **now we also may live new lives.**" Romans 6:4 (NLT)

B. The Apostle Paul told believers in Colosse the key to living new lives is staying rooted in Jesus.

"And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. **Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.** Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness." Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)

WARNING: We cannot live the new life in our own strength. "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. **For apart from me you can do nothing.**" John 15:5 (NLT)

1. If we stay rooted in Christ, we will be able to see things from an eternal perspective.

"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. **Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.** And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory." Colossians 3:1-4 (NLT)

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but **let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.** Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." Romans 12:2 (NLT)

"**I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.** Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him." Philippians 3:7-9a (NLT)

2. If we stay rooted in Christ, we will be able to take off our old self and put to death the old sinful attitudes/behaviors that have ruined our lives.

"**Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature:** sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since **you have taken off your old self with its practices...**" Colossians 3:5-9 (NIV)

3. If we stay rooted in Christ, we will be able to put on our new self so that we become a little more like Jesus every day.

"**Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him...** Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, **you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.** Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. **Above all, clothe yourselves with love,** which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful." Colossians 3:10 & 12-15 (NLT)

Note: As we grow and mature in our faith, we will struggle with letting go of sinful habits/attitudes/behaviors and embracing Godly habits/attitudes/behaviors. "So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. **The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires.** These two forces are constantly fighting each

other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions... Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, **let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.**"

Galatians 5:16-17 & 24-25 (NLT)

Note: Step by step, the Holy Spirit will give us the desire and the power to surrender every part of our lives to Jesus to be transformed. "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

4. If we stay rooted in Christ, we will be able to represent Jesus well in whatever we say and do.

"And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly. Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged. Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. **Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.** Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ. But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites."

Colossians 3:17-25 (NLT)

5. We can help each other stay rooted in Christ.

"In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us... Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. **Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.**"

Colossians 3:11 & 16 (NLT)

JOHN SCHMIDT • 11-19-23 • john@centeringlives.com

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

Read Colossians 3, and then discuss the following questions:

1. How would you describe the new life we have in Jesus? (2 Corinthians 5:14-17) How is it different from the way we used to live?
2. Why do you think the Apostle Paul said that staying rooted in Christ is vital to living out our new life in Christ? (Colossians 2:6-7, John 15:5) How can we help each other stay rooted in Christ? (Colossians 3:16)
3. What does it look like for Christians to "think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth"? (Colossians 3:2) How often do you do this? Why does it matter? (Romans 12:2, Matthew 6:19-21)
4. What sinful behaviors/attitudes/habits has the Holy Spirit enabled you to take off? (Colossians 3:5-9)
5. What Godly behaviors/attitudes/habits has the Holy Spirit enabled you to put on? (Colossians 3:10-15)
6. What role does the Holy Spirit play in the taking off/putting on process? (Galatians 5:16-25, Philippians 2:13)
7. How well are you representing Jesus at home and at work? (Colossians 3:17-25) Where would you like to improve? What needs to change for improvement to happen?
8. Discuss the following quotations about being "rooted".

"Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do." Psalm 1:1-3 (NLT)

"When the root is bad, the fruit is bad." Unknown

"I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong." Ephesians 3:16-17 (NLT)