

A NEW YOU IN THE NEW YEAR

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Colossians 3:1-17

I. Introduction

- A. New Year's Resolutions and the desire to transform ourselves
- B. Christ and the Gospel as the basis for change
- C. Colossians: Paul's letter to a new church of new Christians in Colossae

II. How Should We Then Live As Christians? (Colossians 3)

- A. Our new selves live because of Jesus (3:1-4)
- B. Taking off the "Old Self" (3:5-11)
 - 1. Put aside Sexual Sin (vv.5-7)
 - 2. Put aside Slandorous, Abusive Speech (vv.8-9)
 - 3. Why? We are the Same in Christ (vv.10-11)
- C. Putting on the "New Self" (3:12-17)
 - 1. Fruit of the Spirit (v.12)

- 2. Forgive as we have been forgiven (v.13)
- 3. For God so loved... so we love (vv.14-15)

III. Conclusion: Give Thanks!

- A. CHRIST IN ME: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts (v.15).
- B. CHRIST AMONG US: Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you all as one body (v.16).
- C. CHRIST TO OTHERS: Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus (v.17).

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. Aside from Jesus returning, what would you like to happen in 2014 for you, your family, and our church? What are some resolutions, goals, or prayers you have for 2014?
2. Pair off into couples. Take turns telling each other the gospel for 2-5 minutes each. (If you are not a Christian, explain the gospel as you understand it.) Why is it important to tell the gospel as truly good news that can not only be understood, but acted on in joy? How is the gospel not only good news about becoming Christians, but about being better Christians?
3. Read Col. 2:8-15 and Rom. 6:1-11. How does the "put to death / made alive" motif help you understand how to live your Christian life?
4. Read Col. 3:18-4:6. How do these exhortations to your "new self" motivate you to continued life change? Does it matter if your motivation is self-empowerment and self-improvement vs. doing all things in Christ, to the glory of God the Father? Why or why not?