

God's Template for Life – Part 1

Colossians 3:1-17

This passage highlights **two simple features of God's template for spiritual growth**.

- **MAINTAIN A CONTINUAL FOCUS ON HEAVEN'S VALUES.**

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:1-4 (NIV)

. . . He who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:17 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Mind + heart = the real inner you. = psychological core = conscious awareness.

Two spheres the mind can focus on:

- things above = heaven and all the values associated with heaven.
- earthly things = the desires and values of the old nature, before knowing God.

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom. . . Colossians 3:16 (NIV)

Dwell = "to live in" or "to be at home"

. . . be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2b (NIV)

Focusing on "things above" affects two things:

- The practical everyday affairs of life.

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 2 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

- Your point of view or perspective about the affairs of life.

- **STAY IN THE PROCESS OF REPLACING WRONG ACTIONS WITH RIGHT ACTIONS.**

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:5-14 (NIV)

¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

¹³Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. Romans 6:12-13 (NIV)

²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self . . . ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. Romans 13:14 (ESV)

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. Colossians 3:17 (NIV)