



# Living a New Identity

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## A life-changing identity..... “Union with Christ”

In Colossians, Paul is drilling down into the gospel...into the treasure of who Jesus is and what he has done for those who entrust their lives to him.

**Colossians 2:11-13** 11 *In him* you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, 12 having been buried *with him* in baptism and raised *with him* through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive *with Christ*.



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**Colossians 2:20, 3:14** 20 Since you died **with Christ** to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules... Since, then, you have been raised **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.

What's true of Jesus Christ is true of you....you are “in/with” Him

- You have died with Jesus (*something in you is now dead*)
- And you have been raised with Jesus (*something is alive that wasn't before*)



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**A life-changing identity..... “Union with Christ”**

**Drilling down into the gospel...in union with Christ YOU ARE:**

## **The Object of God’s Heart Freeing Delight**

- **Died...Raised with Christ**

In you relationship with God, you’re free from the posturing, performing, image-building that controls our daily relationships....free to experience a pure, perfect love that is always and only a gift in Christ

## **The Recipient of God’s Life-Changing Power**

- **Died...Raised with Christ**

This new energy brings to life a new self...new you (3:10)



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Faith in your “union with Christ” begins growing a strong sense of self....identity...that causes 2 things to happen

## CREATES A MORAL VISION...

*...renewed into the image of the Creator (3:9)*

Not measuring up to a list of rules...but becoming like our Rabbi...  
to take on Jesus' heart and character (3:12-14)

## COMPELS A MORAL PROCESS...

*...is being renewed*

You are not creating/empowering/willing change in you....  
...you are learning to live out of who you authentically are



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## This Moral Process Is....

**NATURAL....*like taking clothes on and off (3:9, 12, 14)***

The community of Christ should expect to see the likeness of Jesus growing in its midst (3:12-14)

**PAINFUL... *“put to death”...slay (3:5)***

**Why is it a struggle???**

- **Put off** a preoccupation with self (3:5-9)
- **Put on** a pattern of love that looks like the cross...  
...self-sacrifice, self-giving, self-denial (3:12-14)



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Faith in your union with Christ begins growing a strong sense of self...  
....a person engaged in a moral process of becoming more like Jesus

How do you experience this process personally???

## 1. Call sin, sin

*Where do you regularly struggle to put off your self-preoccupation, and put on Christ's generous, self-giving love???*

## 2. Take sin seriously (3:6)

*Don't downsize your patterns of self-preoccupying sin*

## 3. Fix your heart/mind on Christ (3:1,2)

Hope...your sin will not crush you, nor can it enslave you



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## How do you experience this process IN COMMUNITY???

1. Through the relational challenges of living in community (3:15)
2. Through abundant interaction around the “word of Christ” (3:16a)
3. Through corporate worship (3:16b)
4. Through sharing life with people who in the concrete details of their life keep asking, “How do I live as Christ would if he were me?”



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