

3. Jesus is my identity. I don't need to find one.

Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. Colossians 3:11 (ESV)

Conclusion

How I think determines what I seek.

Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. **Read Colossians 3:1-2.** Today, what do people "seek"? Is there much difference between believers and nonbelievers? Think back over the last few years of your life. What have you been "seeking" (what are your goals)? See 2 Corinthians 4:18; Matthew 6:19-20.
2. **Read Colossians 3:1-2.** What does it mean to set your mind on things that are above? In your experience, what are some of the things that help you set your mind on things that are above instead of earthly things? What can you do to increase this influence on your life? See Philippians 4:8; Proverbs 4:23.
3. **Read Colossians 3:5-6.** How would you help a young Christian understand the importance of sexual purity? See also 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 Corinthians 6:9, 13.
4. **Read Colossians 3:7.** How would you help a young Christian understand the importance of handling anger? See also James 1:19-20; Ephesians 4:26, 31.
5. What is the role of the church in helping us live as Paul encourages us to live in Colossians 3:5-11?



Colossians 3:1-11 - Why Does My Thought Life Matter?

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1. Set my thought life on godly things, not sinful things.

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. Colossians 3:1-2 (ESV)

Set godly goals that reflect who I am in Christ.

Think thoughts that are in line with my eternal life, not my old earthly life.

Remember who I was, who I am and one day who I will be.

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:3-4 (ESV)

2. Put off my old life and put on my new life.

Noah — Genesis 6:12

Sodom and Gomorrah — Genesis 19

The Seduction From Moabite Woman — Numbers 25

Kill Sexual Sin.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Colossians 3:5 (ESV)

Sexual Immorality — (Porneia) - Any physical sexual expression outside of marriage.

Impurity - Any physical or imaginative sexual expression outside of marriage.

Passion — Looking at people with lustful intent.

"I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?" Job 31:1 (ESV)

Evil Desire — Entertaining wicked lusts.

Covetousness — (sexual covetousness) Longing for someone other than our spouse.

Idolatry — Worshipping a body instead of our savior.

On account of these the wrath of God is coming. Colossians 3:6 (ESV)

Put away sinful anger.

In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Colossians 3:7–8 (ESV)

Anger — Smoldering bitterness

Wrath — Anger that explodes in outbursts

Malice — Planning evil or rejoicing when evil happens to someone.

Slander — Speech that tears others down. It could be true or false.

Obscene Talk — Foul language

Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. Ephesians 5:4 (ESV)

Stop lying.

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Colossians 3:9–10 (ESV)