



**COLOSSIANS:
SATISFIED IN CHRIST**
An interactive Bible study for
individuals, families,
and LIFE Groups

**~Week Four~
"Life Together"**
Colossians 3:9-17

Welcome to UPC's study of the book of Colossians entitled "Satisfied in Christ." These weekly lessons are coordinated with the Sunday sermons at UPC. On Sunday morning you will hear a sermon on a selection from Colossians. That week's study guide will focus on the NEXT section in the book of Colossians. If you miss a sermon, you can always listen to it online at www.upc-orlando.com.

WARM UP

This week's Bible study will address how well we live together as brothers and sisters in the family of God, particularly as members of the same local church. Take a few moments to describe what daily life was like for you growing up. Was yours a peaceful home? Or was it a chaotic, tumultuous home? Were tensions resolved through open communication, or suppressed? Was it safe to disagree with each other, or did a spirit of fear prevail? Was forgiveness granted, or withheld?

RECALL – Colossians 3:1-8

The main idea of Sunday's sermon was "be who you are." That is, if you are a believer in Jesus, you are defined by your "new self." An important dynamic for holy living is accepting your new identity and refusing to define yourself by your sin. Let's dwell on this for a few minutes.

a) What does it mean to you that "you have been raised with Christ" (Col. 3:1)?

b) In Col. 3:1, Paul says to "set your *hearts* on things above." In verse 2 he says, "Set your *minds* on things above." He is basically saying the same thing in two different ways, meaning this is very important! So what does this look like for you? What specific things do (or can) you do to put this exhortation into practice?

c) There is an intriguing paradox in Colossians 3:1-8. Verse 3 says, "You died." Verse 5 says, "Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature." How can Paul say to put to death something that has already died? Explain this paradox!

d) Col. 3:6 speaks of the wrath of God. In your experience, how do most people react to the concept of God's wrath? Why is that?

e) Share something you found particularly interesting, encouraging, convicting, or relevant in Sunday's sermon.

REFLECT – Colossians 3:9-17

You may remember that we have entered into the second big section of Paul’s letter to the Colossians. Chapters 1 and 2 taught us what Christ did to bring us into the family of God. Chapters 3 and 4 teach us how we are to live in the family of God. Paul wastes no time getting into some very specific issues that Christians deal with as brothers and sisters in the family.

- a) Make a list of all the “do” and “do not” statements you can find in Col. 3:9-17 (rephrase if you find it helpful):

Do These Things:

Don’t Do These Things:

- b) What is the basis, or motivation, by which we are to treat one another with kindness, forgiveness, and humility? (There are several verses in this passage that will help answer this question.)

- c) Look at Col. 3:11. You may not feel that Paul’s examples (i.e., Greeks, Jews, barbarians, slaves, etc.) fit our modern context. So how might you rephrase this verse to make it hit home to you, your family, your LIFE Group, or our church? In other words, fill in the blanks below with other, more relevant group labels:

COLOSSIANS 3:11 FOR TODAY

“Here there is no _____ or _____, _____ or _____,
_____ or _____, but Christ is all, and is in all.”

- d) Col. 3:17 contains a very important truth: Everything we do can be worship, when done for the glory of God. How does this verse give you a whole new way of seeing your job, your hobbies, your movie-going, and everything else you do with your time?

RESPOND

- a) Notice (in verses 9-10) it is an indisputable fact that the Christian *has* (past tense) “taken off” the old self and “put on” the new. It is as if Paul is teaching that, when someone comes to Christ, the old self is ripped off like an old, dirty set of clothes and replaced with the new, beautiful clothing of the new self. React to this teaching. Do you always *feel* as though you are a new person in the eyes of God? If not, what would Paul say you should do about that? What truths from Col. 3:9-17 could you preach to yourself in order to live out of your new identity?

- b) Out of all the things Paul in this passage says should characterize the family of God, which are you struggling with right now? Consider asking someone to pray for you about the following:

The first service one owes to others in the fellowship consists in listening to them. Just as love of God begins in listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them. It is God’s love for us that He not only gives us His Word but lends us His ear. So it is His work that we do for our brother when we learn to listen to him.
(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)