

Connect360: How Should I Live?

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- *Lesson 9 from the BaptistWay Press Connect 360 Unit “The Fullness of Christ” focuses on Colossians 3:1-9.*

In Christ, we are victorious over sin, Satan and self. The God who created us and loves us to the fullest restores us to himself. Jesus came to give us his resurrection power so we can live free from the chains of sin and in the power of the Spirit. Jesus is the only way for us to have a purposeful life—both in this world and in the kingdom to come.

Focusing on the theological explanation of the first two chapters in Colossians about the identity of Christ and the “fullness” that believers find in him, the Apostle Paul then shifted to the more practical section of his letter. Chapters 3 and 4 explain how followers of Christ can find “fullness” in him. In a similar style to his other writings, Paul moved from doctrine in the first part of the letter to behavior in the latter section of the text. Christianity is more than merely understanding who Jesus is; a life of faith necessitates that we live out the truth of Christ in our lives as we surrender to his lordship. How we live our lives expresses what we genuinely believe.

Represent the King

We are not to live our lives as does the world around us. We are to be ambassadors of another kingdom by representing our King through living by the very nature and character of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). What we value most is what we set our hearts on. Just as Jesus rose from the dead and ascended beyond this world, so we, as his followers, should ascend

from focusing on temporal, earthly things to a heavenly perspective on life.

Paul in verse 3 was using a metaphor when he spoke of having died to a carnal way of living, so we can experience the resurrection power of a newness of life in Christ. For example, Paul said, “I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). Thus, Paul was speaking of our death (or crucifixion) from the sinful and tempting things of this world. So, in Paul’s estimation, our death from worldly things is as much a reality as the resurrection of Jesus. We must choose to “hide” in Christ so we can fully experience the ongoing resurrection power of Christ.

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