



**Raised With Christ | Ethan Matott | 7.20-21**

### **Weekly Study**

## **S H A R E**

Jumping into our third week of our Colossians series where we are exploring Christian maturity and the importance of growing into individuals whose faith is not swayed by circumstances or culture. Ryan preached a powerful message last week discussing how we as followers of Jesus shouldn't be swayed but the culture. We should expect the world to act like the world yet we as Christians should act differently than the world rather than being consumed by the culture around us.

- Take a few moments as a group to go around discussing individual highs and lows from this past week.**
- Reflect on the message from last week and share the biggest takeaway you had from listening to it.**

**Read Colossians 2:6-7**

## **G R O W**

Something we have seen in the first two chapters of Colossians is a very theological view of how Paul is speaking to the church in Colossae when it has to do with growing in Christian maturity. Then the beauty of chapter three is that Paul speaks directly to the church in a practical way of what it looks like to mature in our faith which looks like bearing fruit through the transforming love of Christ.

**Read Colossians 3:1-4**

Paul begins chapter 3 with a statement beginning with "Since," calling the church to live with hearts and minds set on things above rather than living in our old ways focused on earthly things. Directly, Paul is saying that we need to live as those made alive in Christ, since Christ is now our life, not merely an accessory that makes our life look a little better. We gain this understanding from the grace of God as we now share in the death and resurrection of Christ. You may have heard it said that when you give your life to Jesus, you are now a new creation, born again, and that is also what baptism is all about. It is a symbolic representation of being buried with Christ and being raised to new life, so we are to live from that.

- What does it mean to "seek the things that are above" and "set your minds on things above"? How can we practically do this in our daily lives?**
- How does our identity as those who have "died with Christ" and been "raised with Christ" impact how we should live? What difference does this make in your life?**

## MOVE

### Read Colossians 3:5-14

Verse 5 starts with a bang: "Put to death" all things that have to do with your earthly nature! Paul specifically calls out ways of the world that are actually bringing people death rather than life. As followers of Jesus, we shouldn't be walking in these ways—ways that we used to live. Paul doesn't stop there; he goes on to list many behaviors we may have been clothed with in our old ways, such as anger, rage, malice, etc. Instead, we should put on our new self, the new creation that we are in Christ.

- Many Christians agree that these are not ways we should be living, but truly examine your life: in what ways might some of these behaviors be hiding in the shadows?**
- Consider how these earthly behaviors have impacted your relationships with others and your relationship with God. What consequences have you experienced as a result?**

Verses 10-14 are where we really need to lean in. As Christians, this is where we focus on living the new life we've been given, with a new way of thinking. We are to clothe ourselves with characteristics that display us as God's people. When you think about it, clothing yourself is about what people see when they look at you or are around you. These attributes should be evident to others when they are around us.

One thing we never want to do is try so hard to control our own way of living differently. This isn't about behavior modification; it's about an inside-out transformation. When we try our hardest, gritting our teeth to live differently, rather than allowing Jesus to reign in our hearts and minds, we miss the point. It's not a trying problem; it's more of an understanding grace problem. When we begin to understand the depth of the implications of grace, we start to live from our new life rather than for our new life. We don't have to earn it, but we get to live in a way that is fruitful because we have a new wardrobe to wear!

- How does the concept of "clothing ourselves" with Christian virtues differ from simply trying to change our behavior through willpower?**
- In what ways may we be missing a deeper understanding of God's grace in our lives? How might this impact our daily actions and attitudes?**
- Reflect on your life, are you wearing your faith as an accessory, or clothing yourself fully as a new creation of Christ? How do these two things differ?**

## **P R A Y & C H A L L E N G E**

Have someone pray over the group. Share with a partner prayer requests to be praying for this week.

As you read Colossians again this week, reflect on these questions with God:

- In what ways are earthly ways of living still living within me?**
- What does it look like for me to clothe myself as a follower of Jesus?**
- How may this internal transformation begin to have an impact from the inside out in many areas of my life?**