

# Holiness

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November 29, 2020



**Open:** Looking back at your life before Christ, what is one thing big or small that has changed in you?

**Read & Discuss:** Colossians 3:1-5

1. What does Paul mean when he says in verse 1, "If then you have been raised with Christ"? (*Consider Colossian 2:11-14.*) Why do you think Paul would use this particular metaphor? How does this truth serve as the foundation for Paul's forthcoming encouragement?
2. What are some ways we can "set our minds on things that are above" (v. 2)? What tempts us to focus our attention on things on earth? Is Paul advocating we abandon all thoughts of the things of earth and only think of heaven? If not, what is he advocating?
3. In what sense have we "died," as verse 3 says? (*See Colossians 2:11-14 again.*) How do you think verse 3 explains why our affections should not be set on things on earth?
4. What is the importance of the appearance of Christ spoken of in verse 4? How does the anticipation of Christ's appearing impact your daily pursuits?
5. In verse 5, Paul uses the word "therefore," communicating that what follows is the right response to the truth that precedes it. How would you summarize the list Paul gives? What advice would you give a new believer with regard to the continual putting to death of various forms of worldliness and sin in our lives?
6. What happens if we as Christians give the pursuit of holiness too little attention in our lives? Is there a danger in giving too much attention to holiness? How do we as a church pursue and encourage other Christians to pursue holiness without falling into the trap of pharisaical legalism and/or justification by works?

**Apply:** How are you (or would you like to be) working to grow in your holiness currently?

**Pray:** Pray for God to continue to purify His church through the powerful presence of His Holy Spirit. Ask for God to bring His people to a place of repentance. Plead with God to help you and your small group community to have minds which are set on things above.

**This Week:** In order to be prepared to disciple someone, spend some time this week filling in the answers for Chapter 6 (pages 23-26) of *Just for Starters*. Then memorize Colossians 3:4-5.

## **Colossians 3:1–5**

<sup>[1]</sup> If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>[2]</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>[3]</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>[4]</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>[5]</sup> Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (ESV)