

**Colossians - Chapter 3**  
**“Our Hidden Life in Christ”**  
**Colossians 3:3-4**

**Verse 3**

1. This is one of my favorite verses in the Bible. Only a believer who understands his position in Christ can appreciate this verse. Paul declares, “*For ye are **dead**...*” Then he turns right around and says, “*...and your **life**...*”
  - Don’t you love it? I’m dead, but yet I’ve got life!
2. This may seem like a blatant contradiction, but of course, it is not. **Galatians 2:20** is a similar verse, “*I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live...*”
3. This is the doctrine of identification. Christ not only died **for us** (substitution), we died **with Him** (identification).
4. When Christ died, it was not **His** death He was dying. “*For the wages of sin is death,*” but Christ had no sin. It was our death. When we humble ourselves and believe this truth and accept what He did for us, the Holy Spirit places us in Christ.
5. Christ’s death becomes our death. His history becomes our history. We are baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit. When this spiritual operation of God takes place, the old Dan Proctor is now dead and buried with Christ.
6. What is true of Christ is now true of me (remember I’m in Christ), so this means that I am also given new resurrection life – the life of Jesus Christ!  
**Colossians 2:12-13; Romans 6:1-8**
7. The old man and his sins are dead and buried with Christ, but yet, my spirit pulsates with life, resurrection life – the life of Christ! I’m alive in Christ.
8. This is how Paul could say that we are dead, yet alive in the same verse. Christ is ascended to the right hand of the Father. The world cannot see Him and His resurrection life, nor can the world see the resurrection life that pulsates in our inner man. Paul calls it a treasure in earthen vessels. **2 Corinthians 4:7, 10**
9. This is why Paul says that our life is hid with Christ in God. Even when we allow His resurrection life to be manifested through us, the world, for the most part, doesn’t recognize it or appreciate it. **2 Timothy 3:12**
10. The world didn’t appreciate the life of Christ when He was on the earth and, for the most part, they won’t appreciate it working in us either. **John 15:20**
11. This is why Paul admonished these believers to seek those things which are above where Christ is. Why would I seek after the things of the world when I am dead unto this world, but alive unto Christ? I don’t possess an earthly hope, but rather, a heavenly hope.
12. This brings us to our next verse.

**Verse 4**

1. This is one of my favorite verses. What a blessed thought, “*When Christ, who is our life...*”
2. When you got saved and received the gift of eternal life, what did you picture? Did you picture eternal life as some heavenly substance that God imparts to you?
3. This is not accurate. Our eternal life isn’t just given to us **by** Christ, it **is** Christ!

- “*And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*” **1 John 5:11-12**
4. We received eternal life the moment we trusted Christ because the Holy Spirit placed us in Christ and made us one with Him. **Ephesians 5:30** declares that “*We are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.*”
  5. When you trusted Christ, you were brought into a state of complete oneness with Christ. Therefore, when you became one with Christ, you received eternal life – because He is life!
  6. Paul said, “*Christ, who is our life!*” He also said in **Romans 6:23**, “*The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” You cannot get divine, eternal life any other way than through Christ. He is our life.
    - Dead religion cannot give you lasting life. Dead religious leaders cannot give you never-ending life. Science cannot give you everlasting life. Scientists can’t even figure out where life first came from, let alone give you a life that will never end.
    - Educators and those in the medical field (no matter how hard they try) cannot impart to you life that is eternal.
  7. The only place it can be found is in the One who conquered death with finality, resurrected from the dead, and is alive forevermore at the right hand of the Father.
  8. One day the living Christ will appear. We will have the opportunity to physically, visibly, see the One who is our life. Because we have been made one with Him, Paul declares, “*...then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*” We call this appearance the Rapture. **1 Thessalonians 4:14-18** explains this in a little more detail.
    - The Rapture is the next scheduled appearance of Christ.
  9. When this event happens, we will receive glorified bodies that are of the same nature and substance as Christ. **Philippians 3:20-21**
    - We will receive bodies that are able to function in the heavenly realm throughout eternity. **1 Corinthians 15:47-54**
  10. Because of our oneness with Christ, we will have the privilege of participating and sharing in the glorification of Christ, throughout the heavenlies, in the ages to come. In our state of oneness with Him, our glorified bodies will radiate His glory. **Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Ephesians 1:17-18, 2:6-7**
  11. Remember, Christ is the Head and we are His body, so it is only natural that when Christ makes His next appearance to end this dispensation of grace, we (His body) will appear with Him in glory!