

WEEKLY BIG IDEA When we die to our old, earthly ways and are raised with Christ, He provides us with a brand-new “wardrobe” of character. We are called to actively put off the old habits of sin and put on His love, letting His peace umpire our hearts and doing everything in His name. (Listen to: [Discussion Leaders Episode](#))

Day 1 Afternoon: Introduction - [Preview](#)

Day Theme: We cannot be of true earthly good unless we are profoundly heavenly-minded.

Opening Engagement What if you were invited to a royal banquet, but you showed up wearing muddy, torn work clothes? How does this relate to our sometimes trying to enter the Christian life without letting go of our old habits?

Read the Text (*Ask someone to read*)

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." — **Colossians 3:1–3 (NKJV)**

What Do You Notice? (Observation Only)

- **Contrasts:** "Things above" versus "things on the earth."
- **Key terms:** "Raised with Christ," "seek," "set your mind," "hidden."
- **Movement of thought:** Paul connects a past event (you died/were raised) to a present command (seek/set your mind) and a current reality (life is hidden).

Guided Discussion

- What does it mean to be “dead” and yet have a life that is “hidden” with Christ? (*Allow discussion*)
- Why is it so naturally difficult for us to set our minds on things above instead of the immediate things on the earth?
- How can a person be deeply "heavenly-minded" without becoming useless or detached from their daily, earthly responsibilities? (*Ask follow-up: How does a heavenly focus actually make us better workers, parents, or friends?*)

Discovery Insight Paul moves from the deep theology of chapter 2 into intensely practical reality. Because we died to our old lives (symbolized by baptism) and are raised with Jesus, our true, eternal identity is no longer rooted in this world. It is safely locked away in heaven with Him.

Christ Connection Jesus is our life. He is the safest vault in the universe for our identity, our value, and our future.

Life Response When you face an earthly trial or insult today, pause and remind yourself out loud: "My real life is safely hidden with Christ."

Encouragement Bridge When you face trials, the devil can't steal your ultimate value because your true life is locked away in the safest vault in the universe.

Day 2: Heavenly-Mindedness [Reel #1](#)

Day Theme Changing your spiritual elevation changes your daily perspective.

Opening Engagement From a high mountaintop, a vast landscape looks entirely different than it does from a crowded, noisy city street. How does changing our spiritual "elevation" change our perspective on daily problems?

Read the Text (*Ask someone to read*)

"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory." — **Colossians 3:2–4 (NKJV)**

What Do You Notice? (Observation Only)

- **Action command:** "Set your mind."
- **Key phrase:** "Christ who is our life."
- **Future promise:** "Appear with Him in glory."

Guided Discussion

- What occupies the vast majority of your thoughts during a typical Tuesday afternoon? (*Allow discussion*)
- If we are honest, what are the "earthly things" that most easily distract us from the things of God? (*Invite multiple responses*)
- How does the absolute promise that we will "appear with Him in glory" give us courage to handle today's pain or injustice?

Discovery Insight Paul isn't telling us to ignore our earthly duties. Rather, he is telling us to view all our earthly duties from a heavenly elevation. When we consciously choose to set our minds on eternal realities, our earthly anxieties shrink, and eternal values take priority.

Christ Connection Christ is seated at the right hand of God, actively interceding for us. Fixing our minds on Him gives us the grace and strength we need to endure our earthly struggles.

Life Response Take an inventory of your media and entertainment consumption this week. Ask yourself: "Is this helping me set my mind on things above, or dragging my thoughts down to the earth?"

Encouragement Bridge What is grabbing your attention today? The news? Stress? When we look at life from Heaven's elevation, our earthly problems get much smaller.

Day 3: The "But Now" Moment (Putting to Death)

Day Theme God doesn't just forgive our old, destructive habits; He calls us to actively put them to death.

Opening Engagement If you discovered a venomous snake living in your house, would you just try to "manage" it or "ignore" it? Why do we sometimes treat our pet sins like houseguests instead of intruders?

Read the Text (*Ask someone to read*)

"Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry... But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds..." — **Colossians 3:5, 8–9 (NKJV)**

What Do You Notice? (Observation Only)

- **Strong verbs:** "Put to death," "put off."
- **Lists of vices:** First list focuses on internal/sensual desires; the second list focuses on interpersonal/verbal sins.
- **Transition phrase:** "But now."

Guided Discussion

- Why does Paul use such extreme, violent language like "put to death" instead of just telling us to "try to do better"? (*Allow discussion*)
- Look at the second list (anger, wrath, malice, lying). How do these specific sins destroy a church community?
- How do we actively "put off" a bad habit without falling into the trap of legalism or relying on our own willpower? (*Ask follow-up: What is the Holy Spirit's role in this?*)

Discovery Insight The Christian life has a decisive "But Now" moment. Because we are risen with Christ, we can no longer excuse our earthly tendencies. God actively works to renew our minds—breaking down old, toxic mental pathways and replacing them with His truth when we submit to the Holy Spirit.

Christ Connection Jesus didn't just die to cover our sins; He died to break their power over us. We conquer the flesh not by our own strength, but by the power of His cross.

Life Response Identify one specific "earthly thing" (like complaining, anger, or gossip) that you need to ask the Holy Spirit to help you put to death today.

Encouragement Bridge We used to live in anger, malice, and complaining... but now we are called to something higher. God isn't just changing your legal status; He is actively rewiring your mind for holiness!

Day 4: Dressing for Heaven (The New Wardrobe) [Reel 5](#)

Day Theme True spiritual growth isn't just about what you stop doing; it's about what you start doing.

Opening Engagement When someone takes off dirty, sweat-soaked clothes, they don't walk around bare; they put on clean clothes. If we are taking off "anger and malice," what exactly are we supposed to wear in their place?

Read the Text (*Ask someone to read*)

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection." — **Colossians 3:12–14 (NKJV)**

What Do You Notice? (Observation Only)

- **Key command:** "Put on."
- **Our identity:** "Elect of God, holy and beloved."
- **The standard of forgiveness:** "Even as Christ forgave you."
- **The supreme virtue:** "Above all these things put on love."

Guided Discussion

- Looking at this list of virtues (tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering), which one is the most difficult for you to "put on" naturally? (*Allow discussion*)
- Why is our forgiveness of others linked directly to how Christ forgave us?
- What does it mean that love is the "bond of perfection" (or the superglue) for the church? (*Ask follow-up: Can a church survive if it has correct doctrines but lacks this bond?*)

Discovery Insight Paul uses the imagery of changing clothes. After taking off the dirty garments of our old life, we must deliberately clothe ourselves in the character of Jesus. The church is a mosaic of different, flawed people with different personalities, and only *agape* love can perfectly bind us together in unity.

Christ Connection Jesus is the perfect embodiment of tender mercy, humility, and longsuffering. When we put on these traits, we are literally putting on the character of Christ so the world can see Him.

Life Response Choose one "garment" from Colossians 3:12 (for example, kindness or longsuffering) and intentionally "wear" it today in a difficult relationship.

Encouragement Bridge You wouldn't wear dirty overalls to a wedding. So why wear anger, malice, and complaining into your Christian life? Time for a wardrobe change!

Day 5: The Umpire of Your Heart [Reel 2](#)

Day Theme When our emotions and desires conflict, the peace of God must make the final call.

Opening Engagement In a close, highly contested baseball game, what happens to the game if there is no umpire to make the final call on a play? How does this apply to the conflicts and anxieties in our own minds?

Read the Text (*Ask someone to read*)

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."
— **Colossians 3:15–16 (NKJV)**

What Do You Notice? (Observation Only)

- **Key commands:** Let peace "rule," let the word "dwell."
- **Context of peace:** "Called in one body."

- **Required attitude:** "And be thankful," "singing with grace."
- **Methods of teaching:** Psalms, hymns, spiritual songs.

Guided Discussion

- The Greek word for "rule" here literally means to act as an *umpire*. How do we let God's peace "umpire" our stressful decisions? (*Allow discussion*)
- How does singing together (psalms, hymns) actually help the word of Christ dwell in our minds more richly than just reading alone?
- What happens to a church community or a family when gratitude ("and be thankful") goes missing? (*Invite multiple responses*)

Discovery Insight Paul gives us powerful tools for maintaining spiritual health: letting God's peace be the ultimate decision-maker (the umpire) over our conflicting emotions, and letting His Word sink deeply into our minds through corporate worship and spiritually uplifting music.

Christ Connection Christ is the Prince of Peace and the Living Word. When He dwells in us richly, our internal chaos is quieted by His authoritative peace.

Life Response The next time you feel conflicted or anxious this week, stop and ask the Lord to let His peace make the "umpire's call" over your emotions.

Encouragement Bridge Did you know Paul uses a sports term in Colossians 3? When your emotions are fighting, let God's peace act as the umpire and make the final call!

Day 6: The Name Tag of Christ

Day Theme Every mundane moment is an opportunity to represent the name of Jesus.

Opening Engagement If you had to wear a large name tag all day that said "Official Representative of Jesus Christ," would it change how you drove your car, spoke to your family, or did your job today?

Read the Text (*Ask someone to read*)

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." — **Colossians 3:17 (NKJV)**

What Do You Notice? (Observation Only)

- **All-encompassing scope:** "Whatever you do," "do all."
- **Two categories:** "Word or deed."

- **The standard:** "In the name of the Lord Jesus."
- **The required attitude:** "Giving thanks."

Guided Discussion

- What does it practically mean to do the dishes, answer an email, or interact with a cashier "in the name of the Lord Jesus"? (*Allow discussion*)
- If we apply this specific filter to our lives, what are some things we might have to immediately *stop* doing?
- Why is thanksgiving mentioned again as the necessary attitude for doing things in Jesus' name? (*Ask follow-up: How does grumbling misrepresent Him?*)

Discovery Insight The ultimate standard for the new life is not a complex set of rules, but a simple, comprehensive filter: *Can I attach Jesus' name to this action or word?* True religion isn't a coat we take off after church; it pervades every mundane moment of our week.

Christ Connection Because we bear His name, we are His ambassadors to a watching world. He transforms ordinary, everyday tasks into acts of holy worship when they are done for His glory.

Life Response Before you begin your workday or household chores tomorrow, pray and dedicate those specific tasks to be done excellently in the name of Jesus.

Encouragement Bridge Need a filter for your daily decisions? Attach Jesus' name to your actions today, and let Him be the Lord of your mundane moments!

Day 6 Summary [Video Overview](#)

5 Weekly Takeaways

- **Hidden Security:** Your true life is safely hidden with Christ in God, out of the enemy's reach.
- **Heavenly Focus:** Setting your mind on things above shrinks earthly anxieties and aligns your priorities.
- **Put to Death:** God empowers us to actively remove toxic, earthly habits like anger, malice, and lying.
- **Put on Love:** The new Christian wardrobe consists of compassion, humility, and love, which perfectly binds the church together.
- **The Umpire's Call:** We must allow the peace of God to rule our hearts and do everything, big or small, in the mighty name of Jesus.

Final Reflection Question (*Pause and allow the class to reflect silently or share*) If you truly view yourself as wearing the "name tag" of Jesus in everything you do, what is one attitude, word, or habit you must change before you leave this room today?

Closing Appeal We were not saved to remain in the muddy, torn clothes of our old earthly habits. Jesus invites us to a royal banquet, and He has provided a stunning new wardrobe of mercy, kindness, and love at His own unimaginable expense. Let us leave today committed to taking off the old and putting on the new, allowing His peace to umpire our hearts and His name to be glorified in every single word and deed.