

## **“POSITIONAL CHRISTIAN LIVING”** **(Colossians 3:1-4)**

*“True, Biblical spirituality involves a daily (Heb. 3:13,15), personal (Rom. 7:4), vertical (James 4:8) fellowship with God (1 John 1:3) based on the believer’s identification with Jesus Christ (Romans 6; Col. 3:1-4; Gal. 2:20), motivated primarily by His love (2 Cor. 5:14; 1 John 4:19), and provided totally by His grace (2 Cor. 9:8; 12:9; 1 Cor. 15:10) and power (Heb. 13:20-21; Phil. 2:13; 4:13), which is enjoyed through repeated responses of faith (2 Cor. 5:7; Col. 2:6; Gal. 2:20) as one diligently seeks the Lord (Heb. 11:6), resulting in spiritual growth (2 Pet. 3:18) into Christ-likeness (2 Cor. 3:18; Romans 8:29), faithful obedience to God’s will (Acts 9:6; 1 Pet. 1:14), and fruitful service (John 15:1-7) to others in love (Gal. 5:6,22), all to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31).”*

### **A. The BASIS of True Christian Living is Your POSITION IN CHRIST**

*“If then you were raised with Christ . . .” (3:1a)*

1. The "you" in this passage addresses the Colossian \_\_\_\_\_ who were already \_\_\_\_\_ . (1:1-6, 14; 2:13-14)

*\* What place does the Gospel have in your Christian life?*

2. The conjunction "then" causes us to look back in the context to the \_\_\_\_\_ content.

*\* What had Paul already addressed about true vs. false Christian living?*

3. True Christian living centers around our \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ whereby we have been \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ. (3:1-3)

*\* What is the difference between substitutionary truth and identification truth?*

*\* What is the difference between our position in Christ and our condition?*

*\* How should these positional/identificational truths affect our practice?*

## **B. The COMMANDS of True Christian Living**

1. Command #1: "\_\_\_\_\_ *those things which are above, where Christ . . .*" (3:1b)

*\* Who does true Christian living by grace pursue?*

2. Command #2: "\_\_\_\_\_ on things above . . ." (3:2a)

*\* How is this different from the previous command of v1?*

## **C. The REASONS/MOTIVATIONS for True Christian Living**

1. Reason #1: Regarding your PAST . . . *"For you died"* (3:3a)

2. Reason #2: Regarding your PRESENT . . . *"and your life is hidden with Christ in God."* (3:3b)

3. Reason #3: Regarding your FUTURE . . . *"When Christ, who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."* (3:4)

*\* What has been motivating you to live for Jesus Christ?*