

## SERMON NOTES

### “Dying to Grow”

Colossians 3:1-17

David Renwick

1. Growth or Stagnation? Nice or New (C.S. Lewis)
2. God’s Passion: Our growth
  - a. Not to Earn God’s favor
  - b. But to Respond to God’s Gifts through Christ
3. We have been Given
  - A New Story to Define Us – “Crucified and Raised with Christ” (3-5)
  - A New Relationship to Shape Us – Christ (10-12a)
  - A New Wardrobe/Image to Wear (9,10,12,14)
4. Growth By . . .
  - Stopping – Who we do not want to be  
*Self Control; Treatment of Others*
  - Starting – Who we want to be  
*Treatment of Others; Inner Peace and gratitude*
5. How?
  - Set the Mind on the right things*
  - Let Christ’s Word Live (and work) within you*
  - Do it Together*

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### Colossians 3:1-17

<sup>1</sup>So if 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 is revealed,

then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup>**Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly:**

fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry).

<sup>6</sup>On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient.

<sup>7</sup>These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life.

<sup>8</sup>But now you must get rid of all such things –

anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth.

<sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another,

seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices

<sup>10</sup>and have **clothed yourselves** with the new self,

*which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.*

<sup>11</sup>In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and

uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

<sup>12</sup>As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, **clothe yourselves** with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

<sup>13</sup>Bear with one another

And if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other:  
just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

<sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love,

which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

<sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,

to which indeed you were called in the one body.

And be thankful.

### HOW?

<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;

teach and admonish one another in all wisdom;

and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

<sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed,

*do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,*

*giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

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### Ephesians 4:1-3, 15-16

I (Paul) beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

<sup>15</sup> . . . speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.

### Acts 2:42

<sup>42</sup>The (first Christians) devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

### 2 Timothy 3:14-16

<sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All scripture is inspired by God . . .

### 2 Peter 1:5-8

Make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.