

STARTING THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT BY CHOOSING THE KINGDOM WAY OF LIFE

Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, Who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. *Colossians 3:1-4*

I. Use Your Power to Choose – Choose “The Better Way” of Kingdom Living

- ***Experience the “Resurrection Life”*** (raised with Christ) – it’s supernatural!
 - 1) ***Focused*** on our union with _____ and the kingdom.
 - 2) ***Freed*** from slavery to self and sin.
 - 3) ***Filled*** with Holy Spirit power.
- Our life (attitudes and actions) is no longer dutiful adherence to the letter of the _____ or our sinful habits, but a celebration of our life and love for Christ.

Set your hearts on things above...

- ***Have a kingdom*** _____ – God’s priorities, goals, and perspectives. You view the world through Jesus’ eyes.
- ***Set your hearts*** – Our interests, attitudes, and ambitions should be kingdom-filled.
- ***Set your minds*** – Kingdom concerns should be a large part of our thought life.

...Not earthly things.

- ***What It Isn’t:*** Spiritual _____, viewing everything in the world as evil, or asceticism – extreme self-denial.
- ***What It Is:*** Avoid getting _____ by the world’s lures, entanglements, concerns, and values.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. *Colossians 3:5-8*

II. Have the Will to Kill – Kill Your Old Ways, and Get Rid of Your Trash

- ***Become a killer!... of earthly desires:*** the temptations and desire to feed and succumb to them must be actively _____ in power. This is a lifetime continuous process.
- This list isn’t exhaustive. Sexual desires are mentioned because of their _____ over us.
- Discipline over our _____ emotions is key.
- If done only by _____ we will fail. We must depend on the transforming power of Christ and our active use of it.

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices, and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Colossians 3:11

III. Be “PC” – Live a Life of “PC” Truth

- The truth is to be “PC” – pure and _____, including the context that never confuses or misleads.
- ***We tell the truth in four ways:***
 - 1) Tell the truth to _____. Be honest with one another. Do not mislead, manipulate, or be hypocritical.
 - 2) Tell _____ the truth. It’s easy to deceive ourselves regarding who we really are, our character, motives, and actions.
 - 3) _____ for and believe in the truth. Actively find the truth in situations, even if its uncomfortable. Too many believe what they want to believe.
 - 4) Live a life of truth – _____ and integrity. This is difficult in a world of fakes and frauds.
- Seldom can we see the pure, complete, absolute truth by ourselves. We are limited and our thinking tainted by sin. We need to put on the “new self.” We need to be “renewed” through 1) the counsel of mature, objective Christians, 2) Holy Spirit guidance, 3) guidance through knowledge of God’s written word.

Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Colossians 3:11

IV. Accept, Don’t Reject – Put Out Your Welcome Mat to All

Because Christ is in all Christians...

- There should be no _____ of nationality, lifestyle, race, education level, social standing, wealth, sex-gender, religion, power, or personality between others and ourselves.
- We must avoid, not only active barriers, but also _____ barriers of avoidance and prejudices.

Answers: I. Jesus; law; focus; escapism; ensnared. II. Diminished; power; destructive; self-discipline. III. Complete; each other; ourselves; search; genuineness. IV. Barriers; passive.