

Sovereign Grace Church
“Life with Jesus III” outline
February 18, 2018

Colossians 3: 12-17

This morning we will conclude our short series on “Life with Jesus” from the first seventeen verses of Colossians. It is easy in the rigorous process of seeking to understand the truth of Scripture as it bears on our forgiveness of sins and our justification before a holy and just God to forget that the end result of all of this is not to be transformed thoughts but transformed LIVES! When the Scriptures tell us to put off our “old man” and to put on our “new man” it is telling us something we are to actually DO! It is not magic nor is it some form of gnostic mysticism....though it is clearly beyond our power and has very real mystic elements.

God provides the power by His grace but we, in real trust, must step out....even if we don't understand how it can possibly work. Life with Jesus is learning to experience the totality of life with Him at your side, in constant communion and self-surrender. It doesn't just “happen”! It involves real focus, commitment and practice. It will not be perfected in this life and it may not be in the next (though it will be absent our present struggle with sin). Life with Jesus is described as eternal and we should expect our growth in Him to never end....but it begins NOW.

Note on Election and Growth in Christ: Eph. 1: 4-5; Jn 15: 5

1. Review: Putting Off the Flesh/Old Man/Self

2. Putting on the New Man or the Character of Christ vv. 12-14

- **Tender mercies: *a heart of compassion*** Matt 23: 37; Rom. 9: 3
- **Kindness: *goodness of heart***
- **Humility: *giving preference to others; modest self-appraisal*** Phil 2:3
- **Meekness: *controlled/directed power*** I Cor. 6: 6-7; I Pet 4: 8
- **Longsuffering: *patience in waiting on the Lord's timing*** Isa 40:31
- **Bearing with one another: *putting up w/ slow growth etc*** Eph. 4: 1b-3

- **Forgiving one another: *no vengeance*** Matt. 6: 12; 18:22
- **Loving one another: *desiring the glory of God and the good of our neighbor***
Col. 2: 2; I Jn. 4: 19,21; Jn 13: 34-35

3. The Rule of God's Peace v. 15 Jn 16: 33; Rom. 1: 21

4. The In-dwelling of Christ's Word vv. 16-17

Questions for Discussion and Reflection

- 1. Do you presently see yourself as living with Jesus? What does it mean? Can it be seen by those around you? If so, how? If not, why not?**
- 2. How does living with Jesus relate to being His disciple? What is a disciple? What have you learned from Jesus about your life recently? How does Jesus communicate with you? What is the place of the Scriptures in His communicating with us? Is it the only means He has to communicate with us? What is the difference between reading, studying and meditating upon God's Word?**
- 3. How does living with Jesus affect your decisions at work? In your family? At church? In your private life? If we truly love our neighbor, will we automatically let them fulfill the desires of their heart? If not, why not? How does loving our neighbor relate to pursuing friendships? Can friendships be had by simply pursuing them? Why or why not?**
- 4. Do you believe that heaven will be boring? Is life with Jesus now boring? If it is not boring now, why would it be then? What would our friends and neighbors be drawn to think in viewing our lives? What sort of witness to the reality of God does your life convey? Can you truly walk with Jesus and convey an uninteresting life to those around you? Why might you say yes? Why might you say no?**