


OPENING UP: Paul's desire for the Colossian believers was that they would not only understand who Jesus is (his preeminence) but also know how to walk in him daily. As disciples, we are transformed into Christ's image by being raised with him, renewed in him, and ruled by him. Have you ever experienced a time in your discipleship to Jesus where you felt confused or stuck in your spiritual growth? What were some factors that contributed to that feeling and how did you work through it?


 Which answer best describes your understanding of how to grow in your relationship with Jesus today?


Confused

Some understanding, with lingering questions


I understand how to grow in Jesus

1 **Colossians 3:1 says that believers are "raised with Christ."** What does that mean? Read Colossians 2:12-14 and Romans 6:4-5. What significance does that truth have on a Christian's growth in Christ?

 Paul urges believers to set their minds on things above (v2). What earthly distractions can turn someone's gaze away from Christ?

 What does it look like practically to shift your focus away from earthly distractions to spiritual priorities in your daily life?

2 **According to Romans 8:29-30, renewal is ultimately God's work, but in Colossians 3, Paul uses active language to describe this transformation (see v5-9, 10, 12).** Why does Paul use such active commands if renewal is ultimately the work for God?

 What might the Spirit of God be inviting you to do this week to align with His renewal work in you? Consider the three components listed in Colossians 3 to put off (5-9), know Jesus (10), put on(12).

 What are some ways that a Christian can actively participate in the process of their spiritual growth this week?

3 **Paul urges the Colossians to “let the word of Christ dwell” among them richly.** Christ’s message was meant to be at the heart of the community’s life and worship. How can you tell if Christ’s Word is truly dwelling in your own heart and life?

♥ *How do songs, psalms, and hymns help you stay connected to the gospel and remember God’s truth? What are some of the psalms, hymns, or spiritual songs that are especially meaningful to you? Why do these songs stand out? What do they teach you about who God is and what He has done through the gospel?*

4 **Colossians 3:1 says that “Christ is seated at the right hand of God.”** What does that imply about Christ? See Luke 22:66–71; Acts 2:32–33; Acts 7:54–56; Rom. 8:34–39; Heb. 12:1–2. Discuss what these verses reveal about the character and nature of Jesus.

⚙️ *What aspects of your life right do you need view more through Christ’s authority?*

5 **Read Colossians 3:15–17.** As we are experiencing daily life in Jesus, being renewed together in Jesus, becoming more like him, then our relationships will be ruled by the peace of Jesus, the wholeness, harmony that he alone can bring. Think about the beauty of healthy relationships with other people. What are some of the things you appreciate most about when you are living in harmony with others?

♥ *Do you naturally talk about Jesus with other believers, or do you find it difficult to have meaningful conversations about your walk with Him? What might help you focus your relationships on the shared fellowship you have in Christ (v. 16)?*

♥ *Are your relationships with other followers of Christ characterized by peace, harmony, and wholeness? How is God at work in you to live more in the peace, harmony and wholeness of gospel transformed relationships?*