

The calling ahead of me is **GREATER THAN** the negative behind/around me?!?!

Colossians 3:4

When Christ who is **your life** appears, then you also will appear **with** him **in** glory.

Problems with Calling:

- Wrong calling
- No calling (or lost)
- Incomplete calling

One of the hardest things we'll ever do:

= reconcile "it" with the life God has for us.

Colossians 3:1-17

- *Put away anger, malice, slander ... (v. 7)*
- *Put on ... patience (v. 12)*
- *Bearing with one another ... you must forgive (v.13)*

Colossians 3:15

And **let** the peace of Christ **rule** in your hearts, to which indeed you were **called** in one body. And be **thankful**.

1) Accept what our **power** really is → to **choose** who/what will **rule**

→ Reactions **reveal**:

- a) Who/what is **ruling us** in the present
- b) Our level of **understanding** of our true/best calling

2) Our calling is a **community project** → Forge fellowship in the family of God

- Reveal
- Remind
- Colossians 3:11

3) Know that the **calling** ahead of us is currently **within** us

→ The calling within us:

- Becomes a battle when "it" occurs
- Because the "old self" is still present
- The resources are available for the battle to be short

4) Grow in **Gospel gratitude** → for Christ!

→ Gratitude is an **expression** of faith AND a **gauge** of the heart.

5) Fire ~(*unlearn*) our **domesticated Jesus!**

Colossians 1:19-21

For in him **all the fullness of God** was pleased to dwell,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making **peace** by the blood of his cross.

Colossians 3:1-4

If then you have been raised **with** Christ, seek the things that are above, **where Christ is**, seated at the right hand of God.² **Set your minds** on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.³ For **you** have died, and your life is **hidden with Christ** in God.⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

3 Components of Calling:

- a) Identity = *with Christ* (“Coram Deo”)
- b) Destiny = *in glory*
- c) Death = *you have died ... now hidden*
**Death of power, not presence!

6) Have the **mind of Christ** → “logic” of the resurrection

When the **fullness of Christ** takes root in **thought**, it will inevitably bear fruit in **reality**.

Have the **mind of Christ**:

- a) Declare certain things **incompatible**

Colossians 3:5-6

Put to death therefore what is earthly **in** you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.⁶ On account of these the wrath of God **is coming**.

Colossians 3:7-8

In these **you too once** walked, when you were **living in them**.⁸ But now **you** must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

Colossians 3:9-11

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have **put off the old self** with its practices¹⁰ and have **put on the new self**, which is being **renewed in knowledge** after the image of its **creator**.¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but **Christ is all, and in all**.

Have the **mind of Christ**:

- a) Declare certain things **incompatible**
- b) Certain things now become **unthinkable**

Colossians 3:12-13a

12 **Put on then**, as **God's chosen ones, holy and beloved**, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another ...

7) Be **identifiable** with Christ (= *put on what He is within*)

- His grace reigns over our sin/sinfulness
- Grace-governed responses replace sin-filled reactions

We can now get OVER/IT as He shines THROUGH IT!