

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, August 26, 2018

**The Quest and the Battle
A Study of Colossians 3:1-11**

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In the following stories, name the *goal* the main character pursues and then name what stands in the way of the main character achieving the goal:

The Lord of the Rings series

Gladiator

The *Harry Potter* series

Princess Bride

Your Choice: _____

Just like our favorite stories, the Christian life has a **quest** that compels us forward and a **battle** against forces that hold us back.

The Quest: Keep Seeking the Things Above

Read Colossians 1:1-4. (So everyone has the same translation, use your sermon notes or the NASB.)

The Nature of Our Quest.

- ❖ In verses 1 and 2 we are told to focus on things above and not things below. What are the things “above” and the things “below”? Are the things “below” just sinful things or do they include good things like jobs and money and marriage? If so, is there a difference between *valuing* the good things below and *setting your heart* on them?

- ❖ Those of you who have the NIV will notice that in verse 1 we are told to set our “heart” on these things while verse 2 says we are to set our “mind” on these things. In the modern western world, how do we tend to separate the idea of the “heart” and the “mind”? Why are both the “heart” and the “mind” essential in completely committing to God?

The Motivation for Our Quest. Our past, present, and future is completely covered by Christ!

- ❖ Past: “You **have been** raised up with Christ” (verse 1). What does this mean? When did this happen? How should that change the way we live now?
- ❖ Present: “Your life **is hidden** with Christ in God” (verse 3). When something is safely hidden, it’s protected. If Christians face the same hardships as the rest of the world, why does Paul say we are “hidden” and protected? How should that change the way we live now?
- ❖ Future: “When Christ is revealed, then you also **will be** revealed with him in glory” (verse 4). What is this verse referring to? How should that change the way we live now?

The Effort Required for Our Quest. How does the phrase “keep seeking” in Colossians 3:1 describe the effort required? According to that phrase, at what point can we stop seeking?

The Battle: Put to Death What is Earthly in You

General Douglas MacArthur said, “It is fatal to enter any war without the will to win it.” How is that true in our spiritual battle against unholy thoughts, attitudes, and actions?

Living on the next level involves a battle against things that warp **desires** within us, and ruin **relationships** around us.

Warped Desires. List the warped desires from Colossians 3:5-7. (So everyone has the same translation, use your sermon notes or the NASB.)

Four words have to do with sex and one has to do with greed. In our day, do you think “conservative” Christians tend to focus on sexual sins and ignore greed, while “progressive” Christians tend to focus on greed and ignore sexual sins? Explain.

Paul cautions against warped desires. So, does that mean our desires should **end** or be **rerouted**? What’s the difference?

Ruined Relationships. List the sins that ruin relationships in Colossians 3:8-9. (So everyone has the same translation, use your sermon notes or the NASB.) In verse 11, what “labels” did the Colossians tend to use to separate people? What labels do we use today to separate people? How does our union in Jesus make those labels irrelevant?

Let this line from an old hymn be part of your closing prayer today:

*I’m pressing on the upward way,
New heights I’m gaining every day;
Still praying as I onward bound,
“Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.”*



Close with praise reports and prayer requests