

Hidden in Christ  
Colossians 3:3-4  
April 6, 2014

Overview: Many times in Paul's letter he refers to believers as being "in Christ", but in today's text Paul uses an unusual statement of this concept—our lives are hidden in Christ. As we grasp the reality of our hidden lives in Christ, we realize that it is the fundamental answer to our search for safety, security, and significance. Perhaps even more profoundly, a hidden reality, indeed the deepest truth, is our identity in Christ and that Christ dwells in us. The foundation for our spiritual transformation is to more deeply integrate into our lives the truth that we are hidden in Christ.

Engaging with each other

1. What is your recollection of your feelings as a child about playing hide-and-seek? Did you like to be the hider or the seeker? Was it more fun to play with children your own age or with older people (perhaps even your parents)?

Engaging with the Bible

1. Read Colossians 3:1-4. What do you see as the relationship between the first two verses and the concept that our "real life is hidden with Christ in God"? (NLT)
2. What about the concept that your life is hidden in Christ gives you a sense of safety and security?
3. How does the concept that your life is hidden in Christ, as well as in vs 4 that Christ is our life, give you a sense of significance?
4. How is Jesus' claim that you need to lose your life in order to find it (Matthew 10:39) related to Paul's statement in vs 4 that "Christ is your real life?"
5. If the deepest reality about us is that our identity is in Christ, why is this reality so hidden from the world and even from ourselves? Does Colossians 3:4 give you hope or discourage you, and why?

Engaging with our lives

1. When you feel really alone, or when you are anxious, how do you think that the truth that your life is hidden in Christ might bring you comfort?
2. In what "earthly" ways do you try to find safety, security, and significance?
3. In what ways do you think that your "earthly" ways of pursuing safety, security, and significance make it more difficult for you to deeply trust that your identity is Christ?
4. Can you recall a time in your life when you were surprised by your own spiritual growth? Why is our own spiritual growth often hidden even from ourselves?
5. Consider telling yourself, "I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights." How could integrating this truth more deeply change the way in which you live? When is it difficult for you to believe that God delights in you, and why is that the case?