

ActNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Connect Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Connect Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

Live Anew: With New Identity

Colossians 3:1-4

Rev Ming Feong Ching

SERMON SYNOPSIS

- **Salt and Light Flow from Identity, not effort:** Jesus Christ is our example. Jesus' own ministry did not begin with efforts, but with His identity as the Son of God. We are Jesus' disciples and so, we live and serve likewise – from **our identity** which is *founded in Him*, and not in what we do. Afterall, we "have died" to self, we are "raised with Christ" and we are "hidden with Christ in God (verses 1 & 3).

When we live God's way, we will not suffer burnout, nor will we be seeking worth in our roles, successes, or ministry growth. As disciples of Jesus, our ultimate worth is in Christ. Therefore, we must shift from performance-based effort to an identity-rooted. A life in Christ will naturally shine.

- **What "in Christ" means:** When we say our identity is in Christ, we are saying that who we are essentially as human beings is *who we are in Christ*. This means that we belong to God and we are secure in Christ. Thus, this is our most important identity as compared to our occupation, role in our family, or role in church ministries, etc. In other words, **this "hidden" life in Christ provides the foundation for all other roles** (2 Corinthians 5:17, Colossians 3:3).
- **How we live out our identity in Christ:** When we believe and receive Jesus as our personal God, Saviour & King, we become a 'new creation' (2 Corinthians 5:17). We live out this NEW identity in Christ in our discipleship – which is **a way of living** in full accordance to God's values, will, laws and ways found in His Holy Word – as compared to how we live *before we chose* to be a child of God/disciple or of Jesus Christ. The three movements to live in this new identity are:
 - ✓ **Re-centre:** This means we realign everything & *everyone* in our lives to revolve around Christ.
 - ✓ **Re-assure:** This means we are secure in Christ as our lives are "hidden" in Him, and so, criticisms, comparisons, failures or successes will not destroy or control us.
 - ✓ **Re-focus:** This means our perspective changes. Eg. Work and ministry will no longer define us nor validate us, but they become a place of calling & witness.
- **How to Grow in our New Identity:** We do NOT grow by doing more, serving more or trying hard to follow Jesus. We grow by *allowing* God's Word to transform our minds to be like Christ, by *re-centring* when the Holy Spirit prompts us, and by *returning* to Jesus Christ repeatedly. This is discipleship. Therefore, remember who we are and live anew in our new identity in Christ in 2026!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

RELATE

1. We have many roles such as being a parent, sibling, employee or employer, leader, friend, student, and so on. When one's identity and personal worth are tied to how well one performs and fulfils any

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of these roles, how would this perspective affect the relationships with the significant people in that person's life?

REFLECT

2. How do the Scripture verses below help you reshape your sense of personal worth and daily priorities, and help you rest in God's intimate knowledge of you, and hence, freeing you from measuring your worth by roles or performance?

[Verses to help us go deeper: Psalm 139:1-6; Hebrews 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:14-17]

RESPOND

3. Identify what or who is sitting at the centre of your life today. If it is something or someone apart from Jesus Christ, would you confess, repent and re-centre in Christ right now? If Jesus is truly the centre of your life, would you thank Him for His grace and enablement for this to be so and would you renew your wholehearted love toward Him and absolute surrender to Him?

PRAYER POINTERS

- Praise and thank God for our salvation and our lives are hidden with Christ Jesus in God.
- Thank the Lord that our worth & security are found in Jesus Christ with our new identity in Him.
- Pray that we will allow the Holy Spirit to reveal areas in our lives that need us to re-centre back to Jesus and ask God to grant us His grace, courage and faith to realign.

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. [Colossians 3:1-3 NKJV]

UPCOMING COURSES & EVENTS

Register via TPMC.ORG.SG

1. Disciple 1: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study, Information Session [Zoom Online on 28 Jan 2026, 7:30pm – 9pm]
2. How to Study the Bible (for beginners) [1 & 8 February 2026, 1pm – 2pm]