



## Alive in Christ

By Rev Lonny R. Bower 27 July, 2011 – www.fullmessage.org

Live as Christ's people...

What is a sign that we are living as Christ's people?

What does it mean to be complete in Christ?

Are you complete in Christ?

Even today, we have those who judge because they might consider eating a certain food like pork or drinking a certain drink (alcoholic) a sin. Yet the Bible is very clear on the matter. The kingdom of God is not about food or drink, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17).

What influences are there in your life that may not be based on God's word?

What is the corrupt nature Paul refers to?

### III. Risen With Christ – Colossians 3:1-4 (GWT)

<sup>1</sup>Since you were brought back to life with Christ, focus on the things that are above—where Christ holds the highest position. <sup>2</sup>Keep your mind on things above, not on worldly things. <sup>3</sup>You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>Christ is your life. When he appears, then you, too, will appear with him in glory.

What does the scripture mean when it says you have died?

Has Christianity had a positive or negative effect on the world? Explain your thought process.

Consider that it has had both a positive and a negative effect – the onus of this effect is solely on us. If we are truly alive in Christ the effect is positive, if we're "zombie" Christians or what I have referred to for years now as little 'c' Christians the effect is negative. However, our choice has not ever changed the nature of God – He is unchangeable.

### II. Dead to Legalism– Colossians 2:16-23 (GWT)

<sup>16</sup>Therefore, let no one judge you because of what you eat or drink or about the observance of annual holy days, New Moon Festivals, or weekly worship days. <sup>17</sup>These are a shadow of the things to come, but the body that casts the shadow belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup>Let no one who delights in false humility and the worship of angels tell you that you don't deserve a prize. Such a person, whose sinful mind fills him with arrogance, gives endless details of the visions he has seen. <sup>19</sup>He doesn't hold on to Christ, the head. Christ makes the whole body grow as God wants it to, through support and unity given by the joints and ligaments. <sup>20</sup>If you have died with Christ to the world's way of doing things, why do you let others tell you how to live? It's as though you were still under the world's influence. <sup>21</sup>People will tell you, "Don't handle this! Don't taste or touch that!" <sup>22</sup>All of these things deal with objects that are only used up anyway. <sup>23</sup>These things look like wisdom with their self-imposed worship, false humility, and harsh treatment of the body. But they have no value for holding back the constant desires of your corrupt nature.