

Colossians 3:1–4 Sample Responses | Kelsie Ellison and Mary Hannah

STRUCTURE

From Kelsie:

v. 1–2: Exhortation to seek the things above

vv. 3–4: Explanation of new life in Christ (that drives seeking the things above)

From Mary:

Initial Grounds for Obedience (3:1a): Believers have new identity through union with Christ

indicative

Exhortation (3:1b, 2): Christian, seek what is above, in heaven, and not what is below!

imperatives

Motivation to Obey (3:1c, 3–4): Christ reigns from heaven (1c); believers are hidden in Christ with God, who is in heaven (3); when Christ appears, you will appear with him in glory (4)

indicatives

UNIFYING-THEME SENTENCE

From Kelsie: God sent Christ so that believers, those who have faith in Christ, can have confidence that their old self died with Christ and their new self is raised with Christ in his resurrection and hidden with him.

From Mary: Christian, seek what is heavenly because you are fit for there, your Savior Lord reigns from there, and you are going there.

AUTHOR'S AIM SENTENCE

From Kelsie: Paul aims to remind believers of their new life that is hidden in Christ and urge them to seek the things above, the things that are of God.

From Mary: After having warned the Colossians to reject false teaching relating to spiritual maturation, Paul now aims to exhort those united to Christ to cultivate heavenly mindedness and motivate them to do so by describing glorious implications of their union with Christ.