

Colossians – The Supremacy of Christ

[5] Our New Life in Christ (3:1-17)

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1. Reading: **Col. 3:1-7**
2. Chapter 3 begins a new section in the book – the practical application and instruction which follows the doctrinal considerations (like the rest of Paul’s epistles written to gentiles).
3. **Col. 3:1** – “If you were raised with Christ” – points back to the description of the circumcision made without hands – baptism (**Col. 2:11-12, 20**) – recall he’s writing to those who should fit this description (**Col. 1:2** – to the saints and faithful brethren)
4. What follows in this section is a description of that which should naturally follow being raised with Christ – a transformed life as living sacrifices to God (**c.f. Rom. 12:1-2**).
5. “It should be as great a surprise to see a Christian living in sin, as it would be to see a man who died walking about in the midst of living people” – Wilbur Fields

Discussion:

I. PUT OUR FOCUS ON THINGS ABOVE (**COL. 3:1-4**)

- A. (**Col. 3:1-2**) Seek those things above (where Christ is) & Set your mind (affection, desire) on things above, NOT on things on the earth -- Our focus and desire should be on spiritual things not carnal (**Rom. 8:5-6**)
- B. Seek FIRST the kingdom of God (**Matt. 6:19-24, 31-34**). Even before our physical needs. – The picture we should have is not that Christianity is a part of who we are or one box that we fill. But in everything we do – we are seeking God. In work, family, school, recreation, etc. our focus is on being servants of God and seeking to do His will. That is WHAT we desire, our PRIORITY.
“To achieve this state of mind, we may at first have to deliberately discipline and direct our thinking. But soon the glory of things above will possess us, and dominate EVERY desire and meditation within us”
- C. What are we thinking and filling our mind with? (**Phil. 4:8-9**)
- D. Don’t look back when serving the Lord (**Lk. 9:57-62; Phil. 3:12-14**)
- E. Why? Because we died and our life is hid in Christ (**Col. 3:3; Gal. 2:20**); and when Christ appears we will appear with Him and our bodies changed (**Col. 3:4; 1 Cor. 15:51-53, 42-44; Phil. 3:20-21**) – the second coming of Christ should motivate us to seek things above!

II. PUT TO DEATH OUR EARTHLY MEMBERS (**COL. 3:5-11**)

- A. Paul emphasizes some sins that must be abandoned if we are risen with Christ in **3:5-11**
- B. Put to death (**Col. 3:5**)
Mortify (KJV)! “Therefore, consider the members of your earthly body as dead to...” (NASB ‘95) – shouldn’t even be named among saints (**c.f. Eph. 5:3**)
- C. Sins associated with lust: (Col. 3:5)
 - a. Fornication – general term for illicit or impure sexual relationships, both married (adultery) and unmarried, or homosexuality, bestiality, etc.
 - b. Uncleanness – impurity or immorality
 - c. Passion – inordinate affection, ungoverned desire, sexual perversion inside or outside of marriage, not keeping the marriage bed undefiled.
 - d. Evil Desire – desiring or craving that which is forbidden
 - e. Covetousness – idolatry – greedy desire to have more, constant desire for material things. On par with idolatry – covetousness puts things in the place of God
- D. Put these things (we used to walk in) away because of the wrath of God! (**Col. 3:6-7; Eph. 5:2-5; 1 Pt. 4:1-3**)
- E. Put off the old man with his deeds (**Col. 3:8-10**)(**c.f. Col. 2:11-12**)
 - a. Emotionally –
 - i. Anger – chronic anger as part of character (**Eph. 4:31**)
 - ii. Wrath – sudden anger, anger boiling into rage, then subsiding – does not produce the righteousness of God (Js. 1:19-20)

- iii. Malice – desire to injure, ill-will toward others
- b. In speech –
 - i. Blasphemy – slander or railing toward another man OR toward God
 - ii. Filthy language – shameful, foul, or obscene speaking (**Eph. 5:3-4; 4:29**)
- c. In integrity – do not lie to one another (**c.f. Eph. 4:22-25; Rev. 21:8**)

III. PUT ON THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST (**COL. 3:10-17**)

- A. The life of a Christian before and after being risen with Christ should present a very noticeable contrast (maybe less ‘visible’ in one who grew up in a godly home; but in heart and in deed there should be a drastic change)
- B. Put on the new man (**Col. 3:10-11**) The new man described – “renewed in knowledge (transformed by renewing mind – **Rom. 12:1-2**) according to the image of Him who created Him... Christ is all and in all” (we are to put on Christ – **Gal. 3:27**)
- C. As the elect of God, holy, beloved – Put on... (Col. 3:12-17)
 - 1. (**Col. 3:12**) Tender mercies – bowels of mercies (KJV), a heart of compassion
 - 2. Kindness – moral goodness, integrity, doing what is good
 - 3. Humility – lowliness, not self-willed, put others above self
 - 4. Meekness – gentleness, power under control, submissive to God’s authority and accepting His will as good
 - 5. Longsuffering – endurance, opposite of wrath and revenge
 - 6. (**Col. 3:13**) Bearing with one another – to sustain or endure with one another
 - 7. Forgiving one another – even as Christ forgave you; when others wrong us we should be willing to forgive and move on
 - 8. (**Col. 3:14**) Above all put on love – affection, good will toward others, the bond of perfection
- D. Let the peace of God rule in our hearts (**Col. 3:15** – only happens if our mind is fixed on things above **Col. 3:1-2**) – **C.f. Eph. 2:14-19**)
- E. Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly (**Col. 3:16**)
 - 1. In all wisdom – hear and DO his will [**James 1:22-25**]
 - 2. As we sing –
 - a. We are teaching and admonishing each other – we need to know and understand what we are saying
 - b. We must have right attitude – sing with grace in our hearts
 - c. The object of our singing is ultimately the Lord – its not about what sounds good to us
 - 3. (**Col. 3:17**) In ALL that we do – in word (speech) and deed (action) do ALL in the name (in the authority) of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Him.

Conclusion:

- 1. Do these things describe our life in Christ?
- 2. If we are raised with Christ they should.
- 3. If we are not raised with Christ, know what is involved in that new life – and if you are willing to model this in your life then why not become a child of God today?