

COLOSSIANS: JESUS+

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF COLOSSE

Part 7: Off and On

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Jesus + nothing = Everything!

Colossians 3:1-17

¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

This is not a plea for positive thinking. This is a plea for eternal perspective.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

In order to have new life, your old life has to die.

⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

God is a God of both love and justice.

⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices...

Interesting note: All of these “old” ways are connected to your mouth.

God wants us to release our old life so that we fully grasp our new life.

¹⁰ ...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

There are no barriers in Jesus.

Followers of Jesus should be building bridges, not walls.

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Let's Get Practical

Imitate the compassion of Jesus and forgive

Allow love to guide every word, thought and deed

Choose God's peace

Be thankful

Marinate in God's truth

Worship as an audience of many for an audience of One

Be thankful

Live as God's ambassador

Honor Jesus in everything

Be thankful

Small Group Questions

Read Colossians 3 out loud before you begin.

- 1) What is the most practical piece of advice you have ever received?
- 2) Who gave you that nugget of wisdom and why has it stuck with you?
- 3) Paul gave us a truckload of practical wisdom this week. Select a single piece and share how you are currently working on making that wisdom a reality.
- 4) Why do you think Paul keeps reinforcing gratitude all along the way?
- 5) What part of your old life have you "put off" and what did God replace it with?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?

**OUR
MISSION**

To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.