

Putting on the New Life in Christ (Col. 3:1-17)

I. Live in Light of Eternity (v. 1-4)

A. Focus on Eternal Things (v. 1-2)

1. Seek after eternal things (v.1)

- i. You have been raised with Christ
 - a. This is seen as an accomplished action
 - b. If Christ has save you
- ii. Since He has raised you, you should seek the things that are above
 - a. the word "seek" means "be zealous for"
 - b. we are to "go after" these things
- iii. Christ is seated at the Father's right hand
- iv. Believer's should be concerned about Him rather than worldly things
 - a. Pleasing Him is more important than men
 - b. Pleasing Him is more important than comfort
 - c. Pleasing Him is more important than the "good life"

2. Set your Mind on Eternal Things (v. 2)

- i. "set your affections" means interest yourself with these
- ii. the things above should be our focus
- iii. the things above should be our desire
- iv. the things above should be where our heart is
 - a. What might earthly things include?
 - money, power, possessions, success, popularity,
 - family, fun, security, comfort
 - b. Whatever things compete for your life's focus
 - c. God alone should be the source of your joy and the consuming fire of your life.

B. Prepare for Eternal Things (v. 3-4)

1. Your Life is no longer earthly if you are saved (v. 3)

- i. You have died with Christ
 - a. His death was your death in the Father's eyes
 - b. The wages of sin is death
 - c. He took the punishment you deserved
 - d. you no longer live for yourself, you have died
- ii. Your life is hidden with Christ in God
 - a. When the Father looks at you he sees Jesus
 - b. Hidden with Christ – means Christ has given you his perfect life and standing
 - c. His perfection is imputed to you
 - d. It also means no circumstance comes into your life that doesn't pass through God's hands first

2. Your Life is Destined for God's glory (v. 4)

- i. You will appear with Christ when He comes
- ii. Notice it says that Christ IS our life

- a. Our life no longer belongs to us
- b. Our life belongs to Christ
- c. Our life IS Christ as far as the Father is concerned
 - this means Jesus' life is on our account
 - Our life is punished in Christ's death
- iii. We must live in preparation for eternity
 - a. Whatever happens – we will live with Christ
 - b. Why invest in things that will ultimately perish?
 - c. Only the Kingdom of Christ will remain
 - d. We should invest in eternal things
 - Working for Christ
 - Witnessing for Christ
 - Growing in Christ

II. Live in the New Life of Christ (v. 5-10)

A. Put to Death the Old fleshly man (v. 5-8)

1. Continually Kill “Earthly things” in You (v. 5-6)

- i. “Earthly things” (v. 5) = anything man desires other than Christ.

NOTICE: almost all of these things occur in our hearts and Minds.

- a. “Fornication” – (porneia) – where we get our word “pornography” – it includes any and all forms of sexual immorality
- b. “uncleanness” – this means any kind of impurity – any thoughts, acts, or deeds that are unworthy of Christ
- c. “inordinate affections” – (pathos) – any desire or longing that is opposed to Christ and His Kingdom
- d. “evil concupiscence” – Lust of any kind
- e. “covetousness” – desiring something you don't have.
 - Notice that the desire to find joy or happiness in something other than Christ is idolatry.
 - Paul calls covetousness idolatry
 - thinking you need something else to be happy is putting another god before Christ
- ii. “Earthly Things” (v. 6) bring the wrath of God
 - a. God is not just concerned with outward behavior
 - b. God is concerned with the heart and mind
 - c. God will have first place in our lives
 - no other desire will take His place
 - to do so is to violate the 1st commandment
 - Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, etc.

2. “Earthly Things” Once Characterized You (v. 7)

- i. You once walked in all these things
 - a. you may look at some things in that list and say “I was never that person.”
 - b. Yes you were – When God is not the center and focus of your life, you are committing idolatry.
 - c. This means that all who are lost (even if they are “good people” are under the wrath of God.
 - ii. You once lived in all these things
 - a. worldly desires characterize unbelievers
 - b. Independence of God defines uncleanness, and impure desires.
- 3. “Earthly Things” are Now being cast off from Believers (v.8)
 - i. We are commanded to cast these off
 - ii. We are casting these things off
 - a. the believer is being changed daily to be more like Christ
 - b. God has promised He will continue to change the believer (Eze. 36:26)
 - iii. The things we are casting off
 - a. Anger
 - b. Wrath (anger acted out)
 - c. malice (wickedness, or ill-will against someone)
 - d. blasphemies (against God and other people)
 - e. filthy communication from your mouth
- B. Live in the Reality of the New Man (9-10)
 - 1. Live like what you have become (9)
 - i. You have put off the old man
 - a. Do not lie to one another
 - b. Both the appropriateness and the truthfulness of the the things we speak are judged
 - c. We censor ourselves because we have put off the old man.
 - blasphemy, filthy communication, and lying are things characteristic of the sinful nature
 - Actions, thoughts, and words can be sinful
 - ii. You have put on the new man (10)
 - a. Your salvation has transformed you
 - b. Your salvation is still transforming you
 - Paul says you have already put on the new man
 - but he also says that your “new man” is still being continually renewed after the image of the creator.
 - Not reached perfection yet, but growing
 - 2. We must continually strive to be in practice what God has made us in position.

III. Live As the People of God (11-17)

A. Christ has Created a New People (v. 11)

1. Those in Christ are the true people of God
2. All Nationalities and Races are included
 - a. No longer Greek (sometimes Jews called all “non-Jews” Greeks) or Jews
 - b. No longer determined by circumcision
 - c. No longer only “good” people (barbarians, Scythians)
 - d. No longer only higher class people (slave and free)
3. For the people of God – Christ is all and in all
 - a. He is everything that they need for holiness
 - b. He is indwelling every believer
 - c. He is the only thing that makes us the people of God and He is living inside the people of God

B. Live Together as God’s People (12)

1. Since believers are God’s elect, holy and beloved
 - a. All believers are God’s chosen people
 - b. All believers are Holy in Christ Jesus
 - c. All believers are loved by God the Father
2. We should Live like what we have become
 - a. Put on compassionate hearts (bowels of mercy)
 - show compassion for others
 - love others like Jesus loves us even when they don’t deserve it (we don’t either)
 - b. Put on Kindness
 - c. Put on humility
 - d. Put on Meekness
 - e. Put on longsuffering

C. Forgive As you Have Been Forgiven (13)

1. When one has a complaint against another
 - a. This is inevitable
 - b. We are still sinful and want our own way
2. We forgive one another
 - a. Notice that it doesn’t say one or the other
 - b. It says both – forgive one another
 - c. Do not harbor ill-will even if you are right
 - d. Peace with others is more important than being right
(note: I need work on this one!!!)
 - e. Remember this: You didn’t deserve forgiveness either
 - f. Withholding forgiveness from a brother or sister in Christ is saying that Christ’s death is not enough payment for their transgression – We never want to do that!
3. We Live in Love toward one another (v. 14)
 - a. Love for one another is more important than anything
“above all these things put on charity”
charity = love (agape)

- b. Love fulfills everything else **“bond of perfectness”**
- c. All the commandments are summed up in these
 - i. Love God and Love you neighbor
 - ii. When you love, you will forgive
 - iii. When you love you will be kind, meek, etc.
 - iv. Always ask – “is this loving the other person?”

D. We Rest in Christ’s Peace (v.15)

- 1. Our peace and Joy come from our salvation in Christ
 - a. He is our Joy
 - b. When we seek joy in anything else, we tend to act in selfishness and unforgiveness
- 2. We were called into the body through forgiveness
 - a. We live in that same forgiveness
 - b. This should be the joy of our lives

E. We are thankful

- 1. Do you remember how thankful you were when you were first saved?
 - a. That is how thankful we should still be
 - b. Sometimes we tend to take this for granted and our thankfulness becomes less
- 1. We have to fight to live in this thankfulness
 - a. Our flesh and the world will try to show us that we deserve more – this leads to unthankfulness

F. We Share together in God’s Word (16)

- 1. **“Let the word of God dwell in you richly”**
 - a. the “you” in this sentence is plural not singular
 - b. We are to make God’s word the center of our lives and dealings with each other
- 2. We are to share the word with each other
 - “teaching and admonishing one another”**
 - a. The word is the central focus of our lives
 - b. Is it yours?

G. We Share together in God’s Worship (16b)

- 1. Together we sing psalms
- 2. Together we sing hymns
- 3. Together we sing spiritual songs
 - d. These are things we do together – it requires being in fellowship with a body of believers
 - e. We do these things with thankfulness in our hearts

H. We Share together in living through Christ (17)

- 1.. Everything you do (“you” here is plural) we do for the Lord
 - a. In word or deed – what we say and what we do
 - b. **“do all in the name of the Lord Jesus”**
 - i. Everything is under his authority
 - ii. If He doesn’t allow it, we can’t do it

2. “do all...giving thanks to God the Father through Him”

- a. Everything we do should be in thanks to God
- b. If you can't thank Him for it, we can't do it