

Colossians 3 - Duty: Christ's Preeminence Demonstrated; Christ in Heaven; Practical Holiness; Our Inheritance; Social Sins; Practical Holiness in Relation to Others; One Body

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Colossians 3

II. Submission to Christ (Col 3:1—4:18)

(1) Conduct (3:1—4:6)

(A) Spiritual conduct (3:1-17)

(a) Seek heavenly values (3:1-4)

1 Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things *that are* above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

1 Therefore, if you have been raised with the Messiah, keep focusing on the things that are above, where the Messiah is seated at the right hand of God.

1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your minds on the things *that are* above, not on the things that are on earth.

2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

2 Keep your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

3 For you have died, and your life has been safely guarded by the Messiah in God.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

4 When the Messiah, who is your life, is revealed, then you, too, will be revealed with him in glory.

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

(b) Put off the old man (3:5-9)

(i) Why believers should put off the old self (3:5-7)

(a) Believers have died to the old way of life (3:5)

5 Therefore, treat the parts of your earthly body as dead *to* sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

5 So put to death your worldly impulses: sexual sin, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry).

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

(b) The wrath of God will come upon those who practice the old way of life (3:6)

6 *For it is* because of these things *that* the **wrath of God** is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,

6 It is because of these things that the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient.

6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

- "...wrath of God" - there are various "wraths" outlined in Scripture:

- Eternal Wrath (vs. sin...)
- Eschatological Wrath (Rev 6-19)
- Calamitous Wrath (Gen 6-9)
- Consequential Wrath (Gal 6:7)
- Abandonment Wrath (Judges 16:20; Prov 1:24-32; Hosea 4:17; Rom 1:18-32)

Abandonment Wrath

Judges 16:20: And [Delilah] said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

- How can we tell if God has "abandoned" us?

Hosea 4:17: **Ephraim** is joined to idols: let him alone.

- "Ephraim" (37x in Hosea) is God's synecdoche for the Northern Kingdom, the name of its dominant tribal constituent

- "Let him alone" has a painful note of finality (Cf. Rev 22:11)

Prov 1:24-32:

24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear comes;

27 When your fear comes as desolation, and your destruction comes as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish comes upon you.

28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord:

30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

(c) Believers are changed people (3:7)

7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

7 You used to behave like them as you lived among them.

7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

(ii) How believers should put off the old self (3:8-9)

(a) Avoid attitudinal sins (3:8a)

(b) Avoid sins related to speech (3:8b)

8 But now you also, rid yourselves of all of them: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* obscene speech from your mouth.

8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth.

8 But now you must also get rid of anger, wrath, malice, slander, obscene speech, and all such sins.

8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

(c) Do not lie (3:9)

- 9 Do not lie to one another, since you stripped off the old self with its *evil* practices,
- 9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices,
- 9 Do not lie to one another, for you have stripped off the old nature with its practices
- 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

(c) Put on the new man (3:10-17)

(i) Exhortation to put on the new self (3:10)

- 10 and have put on the new *self*, which is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created it—
- 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—
- 10 and have clothed yourselves with the new nature, which is being renewed in full knowledge, consistent with the image of the one who created it.
- 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

(ii) No distinction (3:11)

- 11 *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, *and* free, but Christ is all, and in all.
- 11 *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.
- 11 In him there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free person. Instead, the Messiah is all and in all.
- 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

(iii) How to put on the new self (3:12-17)

(a) Practice fruit of the Spirit (3:12)

- 12** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, *and* patience;
- 12** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;
- 12** Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
- 12** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

(b) Forgive (3:13)

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so *must* you *do* also.

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

13 Be tolerant of one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, you also should forgive.

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

(c) Love (3:14)

14 In addition to all these things , which is the perfect bond of unity.

14 Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which ties everything together in unity.

14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

(d) Experience God's peace (3:15a)

(e) Be thankful (3:15b)

15 Let the peace of Christ, to which you were indeed called in one body, rule in your hearts; and be thankful.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

15 Let the peace of the Messiah also rule in your hearts, to which you were called in one body, and be thankful.

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

(f) Experience God's Word (3:16a)

(g) Worship (3:16b)

16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

16 Let the word of the Messiah inhabit you richly with wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, and singing to God with thankfulness

in your hearts.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

(h) Glorify God (3:17)

17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

17 And whatever you do, whether by speech or action, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

(B) Practical conduct (3:18—4:6)

(a) Relationships (3:18—4:1)

(i) Husbands and wives (3:18-19)

(a) Wife's duty to submit (3:18)

18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is appropriate for those who belong to the Lord.

18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

(b) Husbands duty to love (3:19)

19 Husbands, love your wives and do not become bitter against them.

19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

(ii) Parents and children (3:20-21)

(a) Child's duty to obey (3:20)

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.

20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.

20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

(b) Parents duty not to exasperate (3:21)

- 21 Fathers, do not antagonize your children, so that they will not become discouraged.
- 21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.
- 21 Fathers, do not make your children resentful. Otherwise, they'll become discouraged.
- 21** Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

(iii) Slaves and masters (3:22—4:1)

(a) Slaves duty to obey as unto the Lord (3:22-25)

- 22** Slaves, obey those who are your human masters in everything, not with eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.
- 22** Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who *merely* please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.
- 22** Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything, not only while being watched in order to please them, but with a sincere heart, fearing the Lord.
- 22** Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

- 23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord and not for people,
- 23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,
- 23 Whatever you do, work at it wholeheartedly as though you were doing it for the Lord and not merely for people.
- 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

24 knowing that *it is* from the Lord *that* you will receive the reward of the inheritance. *It is* the Lord Christ *whom* you serve.

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

24 You know that it is from the Lord that you will receive the inheritance as a reward. It is the Lord Messiah whom you are serving!

24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

25 For the one who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

25 For the person who does what is wrong will be paid back for what he has done without favoritism.

25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.