

COLOSSIANS

CHAPTER 3 (pt. 2)

Chip Kawalsingh

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (OUR CLOTHING)

1. Being Christlike in our character and attitude towards one another
 2. Being productive in ministering God's Word to one another
 3. Being motivated by a desire to please Him in everything
- ... and being thankful throughout the entire process!

1. PUT ON CHRIST (THE NEW NATURE) IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST (v10-17)

Take action: 'put on'. This is not a passive activity and does not happen automatically. We have to be active in 'putting on'.

Specific Christ-like attributes (expressions of love)

1. Heart of compassion: opposite of insensitivity, callousness.
2. Kindness: opposite of harshness and severity; one's attitude and actions towards others; sweetness of disposition.

'Kindness is action that reveals compassion, action that arises out of a sense of sympathy. It can take many different forms—a smile, a kind word a pat on the shoulder, an invitation to coffee, an offer of help.' – Steadman

3. Humility: opposite of arrogance and pride; one's attitude towards self. Don't consider yourself to be superior to others.
4. Gentleness: opposite of rough and ungracious; meekness, but 'meekness under control'.
5. Patience: opposite of revenge or anger.

- a. 'bearing with one another' – the positive side of the equation; encourage and support each other
- b. 'forgiving one another' (v13-14) – the standard; 'just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you'

6. Love: the most important attribute; 'perfect bond of unity' is the theme Paul is driving at in this section.

'The world does not understand theology or dogma, but it understands love and sympathy.' – Dwight L. Moody
'Do not waste time bothering whether you "love" your neighbour; act as if you did.' – C.S. Lewis

2. PRACTICE CHRISTLIKE ATTITUDES (PEACE AND THANKFULNESS) IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS IN THE CHURCH (v15)

We should be characterised by peace ('Blessed are the peace makers')

1. The nature and source of this peace is the 'peace of Christ'.
2. The function and benefit of this peace is to let it 'rule in your hearts' and act as an umpire.

'Paul is not speaking here of an inner sense of peace as God's gift to those who are in his will: this would make little sense of the second half of the sentence which must control the interpretation, especially if this interpretation is to be kept in line with the context... It is inconceivable that those who share with one another the benefits of that great peace-making work of the cross (1:20) should live with any hatred or contempt for each other in their hearts.' – Lucas

3. The unifying purpose and effect of this peace ('to which indeed you were called in one body') gets back to our divine calling as the elect of God.

We should be characterised by thankfulness ('and be thankful')

1. The resource itself: 'the word of Christ'.
2. The prerequisite to mutual ministry: let it 'richly dwell within you,' you must have something to offer others.
3. The activity of mutual ministry: 'with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another'.
4. The accompaniment of mutual ministry: 'with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.' Importance of ministry through music; it touches, stirs and inspires.

'A hymn has three essentials: it must be sung; it must be praise; it must be to God.' – Augustine

5. The attitude of mutual ministry: 'singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God'.

3. PERFORM EVERYTHING FROM THE MOTIVATION OF PLEASING CHRIST (v17)

Not hidden, no secret rooms

'And whatever you do in word or deed, do all': Paul does not lay down a whole system of rules and case law, but rather a fundamental principle that should guide all of our conduct.

Conformity to Christ and pleasing Him is the ultimate goal

'In the name of the Lord Jesus': Only then can we invoke His authority. His is the name that unites us all. Everything we do should be related to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving is the universal attitude

'Giving thanks through Him to God the Father'

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