
Book of Colossians

Lesson 8 - Right Ways to
Master the Flesh (2)

Colossians 3:11-17

Steve Lewis

www.SpiritAndTruth.org



Colossians 3:11

- Throughout the ages, people groups have formed their identities around their commonalities, leading to an “*Us vs. Them*” mentality.
- In Paul’s day, the Church began to cut across all of these distinctions. People from radically different groups began to be included in the body of Christ. The Church began to break down cultural norms in the area of social and class distinctions.
- **Christ is all, and in all** ~ “the ground is level at the foot of the cross.” There are no distinctions – all believers are sinners saved by grace.
- This is another wonderful truth about the greatness of Christ.



Colossians 3:12a

- **Therefore**, *since Christ is all and in all*, believers are to clothe themselves with all of these qualities.
- **Those who have been chosen** (*eklektos*) **of God** ~ “selected out of.”
God handpicked each of these diverse individuals to be members of His body.
- **Holy** (*hagios*) ~ “consecrated or set apart by God for His purposes.”
- **Beloved** (*agapaō*) ~ “unconditional, unmerited, self-sacrificing.”
The highest form of love which God Himself expresses toward those He has chosen and consecrated.



Colossians 3:12b

- **Compassion** (*oiktirmos*) ~ “the sympathetic compassion one shows for the sufferings of others.”
- **Kindness** (*chrēstotēs*) ~ “grace that pervades a person’s nature and mellows anything which would be harsh or severe.”
- **Humility** (*tapeinophrosynē*) ~ “lowliness of mind.” Genuine humility is a character quality which God values highly.
- **Gentleness** (*prautēs*) ~ often translated “meekness,” carries the idea of “power under God’s control.”
- **Patience** (*makrothumia*) ~ “long tempered, longsuffering, or forbearance toward people.”



Colossians 3:13

- **Bearing with** (*anechomai*) **one another** ~ literally “to hold oneself up or back.” This could mean enduring persecution (1 Cor 4:12), putting up with difficult people, showing tolerance for others, or patiently bearing the weaknesses of others.
- **Forgiving** (*charizomai*) **each other** ~ “the one to whom a debt is owed **gives** the cancellation of the debt as a gift of grace and unmerited favor. **Complaint** (*momphē*) ~ “a fault or accusation.”
- **Just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you** ~ *why* believers are to forgive (see Matt 18:21-35). Christ canceled your immense debt of sin, so you should follow His example by forgiving the relatively miniscule faults of others.



Colossians 3:14

- **Beyond** (*epi*) ~ “upon or over.” **Love** is the outer garment believers are to “put on” over all the other virtues.
- The *absence* of love can actually negate the other virtues (1 Cor 13).
- Perfect **bond** (*sundesmos*) of unity ~ “something which binds or joins things together.”
- **Perfect** (*teleiotēs*) ~ describes something that has reached its intended goal. Without love the other qualities are incomplete.
- Believers should *put off* their old fleshly nature while *putting on* the character of Christ.



Colossians 3:15

- Let the **peace** (*eirēnē*) of Christ rule ~ “harmony, tranquility, and calm unity that have their source in Christ.”
- **Rule** (*brabeuō*) ~ “to arbitrate, govern, or control.” God commands that His **peace rule** over believers’ attitudes and behaviors.
- **To which indeed you were called in one body** ~ connects the rule of peace with the fellowship of the members in the body of Christ.
- **And be thankful** ~ “keep on becoming thankful,” a key theme throughout this letter (Col 1:3,12; 2:7; 3:15,16,17; 4:2).



Colossians 3:16

- **The Word of Christ** ~ God's revelation, whether in the Old Testament, the words & work of Christ, or the new revelation given to the apostles and prophets in Paul's day for the Church age.
- **Dwell within** (*enoikeō*) ~ continually be in the habit of letting the Word of God make its home within.
- **Richly** (*ploutos*) ~ "wealth, abundance, plenty" (see Col 1:27 and Col 2:2). **With all wisdom** ~ see Col 2:3
- **Teaching** (*didaskō*) ~ "giving instruction in the truths of the faith."
Admonishing (*noutheteō*) ~ "to put in mind, exhort, warn."
Singing (*adō*) ~ "to express praise to God through song."
- With **thankfulness** in your hearts to God ~ gracious devotion.



Colossians 3:17

- **Whatever you do in word or deed** ~ comprehensive; includes all behavior. No separation between secular and sacred in the lives of believers. In Christ, everything is spiritual.
- **In the name of the Lord Jesus** ~ believers represent Him in speech & action; they no longer live only for themselves. Words and deeds must be chosen with a view to honoring Him. Believers must grow in their knowledge of Christ and His ways to do this.
- **Giving thanks through Him to God the Father** ~ living in Christ means believers' attitudes and actions are accomplished in and through Him; this includes our thankfulness to God.



Application

- When thoughts and ideas from your old nature rise to the surface, how are you dealing with them?
- How is it going for you as you consider the members of your body to be dead to the sensual sins? Are there any relational sins that you need to put aside?
- Do you have any social or racial prejudices which Jesus says you should not have? If so, what will you do about them?
- After putting off negative attitudes and behaviors, which of the new attitudes and behaviors do you need to make a priority?
- Are you allowing the peace of Christ to rule your attitudes and actions when things become difficult?

