

Colossians 3:12-17

The New Life

Image Church // Colossians #7

Introduction

Well good morning Image family, I hope you're doing well! If you have your bibles go ahead and turn to **Colossians 3**...

There's something awesome happened last week that I want to share with you...

- *We got to celebrate 2 baptisms last week... Celebrate that!*
- *But as a result, listen to this...*
 - *Do you remember the family that we commissioned out a few weeks ago that are our covenant members being set out to Eastern Europe...*
 - They were watching online and their son **Sam** gave his life to Christ...
 - Get this it was because of the Baptisms, the baptisms were the key thing that God used...
 - *Can we celebrate that!!*

A challenge to families:

- We bring our older kids in here to watch baptisms- then they go back and discuss what they saw and ask questions.. This week they had a powerful discussion!!
- Listen, parents here's my challenge to you: **Be present**... When you're not here parents not only do you miss out but so do your kids- and God uses the church as a means to disciple your kids...
- He uses our faithfulness to do what He's called us to do, through things like baptism to work in the life of your kids!!

**By the way, speaking of Kids:* we need 5 more volunteers to launch another classroom!

- I need **5 of you** right now to grab that white card and put your name email and phone number on it and write kids... Drop it in the offering bucket...

Alright, Colossians 3...

Here's the premise that we're working off of here, Paul says in **Colossians 2:6** ... just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, **7** being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude.

You have a church that's doing well... they are getting pressured to **see Jesus as a thing, not THE thing... Build-a-bear theology...**

Paul keeps pointing them to Jesus- that Christ is superior to all things, therefore He is sufficient, **they don't need anything else but Him...**

Paul presses against certain attempts to pull them away from this reality...

And challenges them to **not focus on your activity but to focus on your identity in Christ**...

And then he begins to show how ***our newfound identity in Jesus impacts our activity***...

- There are two ways this plays out... There's a ***putting off, or putting to death our old identity***... *Who we used to be*...
- And there's ***putting on, or walking in our new identity*** that Christ has given us in Him!

Last week we looked at putting to death, this week we're going to look at putting on the things of Christ...

- ***BTW***, these are not a list or rules, they shape us around Jesus!

What you're going to see is that **your new identity in Christ takes you deeper into the things of Christ making you more like Christ...**

Illustration: So yall know that I love to hunt...

- Here's the thing once you discover the incredible art of hunting it does something to you... There is a passion, an itch, a longing...
- And it takes you deeper into the sport- you start reading about it, but more stuff related to it...
- And it changes you...
- It doesn't matter if you are a city slicker it will change you...
- I've seen it... I know some guys and girls that have never been a day in their life and then go and are hooked and it adds a new layer...
- Like they show up and they got the right gear, they are speaking the language, they aren't complaining...
- Like they got it going on...

Listen, the same is true when you come to faith in Jesus... Once you experience Him it changes you... And you begin to go deeper into who He is and the result is that you become more like Him in the process...

*Now, for some of you, the disconnect is that you're not really encountered Jesus... He's really not that great to you which is why you don't have much of a desire to dive deeper into the things for Jesus...

*For others of you, there are changes that you want to see in your life... Sins that you're struggling with, things that you don't like, things that are constant issues and **you're going to see the answer for change...**

And for some of you, you're going to be confronted with areas of your life that are out of sync with the identity that Jesus has purchased for you and you're going to see what reorientation looks like...

Here's the thing that you need to understand... **The Christian life isn't something that's static...** It is something that's characterized by forward progress... **Nobody accidentally becomes more like-Christ...**

There's a grace-driven perspective that comes through the gospel that begins to shape who we are... And this morning we're going to see how that plays out in our lives...

Let's jump in...

Colossians 3:12-17

Paul says 12 Therefore, [referring to what Paul's been saying about the new life] then he refers to them **as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved,**

Chosen ones...

- Christian, you were chosen...
- Chosen for the purpose of revealing Jesus to the world...

The next part:

Holy and dearly loved... This is so powerful...

He calls them **holy**... holy does not mean perfect, it means set apart... He's reminding them that as chosen ones, as the body of Christ they are set apart, this means that they think and act differently, they do go along with the current of the community...

- A subtle reminder in the midst of the pressure they are facing from the surrounding community...

*Paul says that they are **Dearly loved** by God...*

- These 2 words don't do justice to the description that we get in the original language...
- *The word **dearly** referred to a deep felt compassion that God has toward them...*
- *This word **love** points to great affection, care and loyalty, taking pleasure in...*

The way that God's made this know to them **and to us** is through the finished work of Christ...

- Through Christ, we see the deep-felt compassion of God...
- Through Christ we experience the affection of God, ... (John 3:16)...
- Through Christ we see the care of God, **1 Peter 5:7** *casting your cares on Him because he cares for you*...
- Through Christ, we see the loyalty of God... That God is true to His promises...

For some of you, you just need to sit in that this morning... you need to experience these things from God, you need to allow yourself to believe them, to soak in them...

- Right now, you feel unloved, unworthy, you feel unseen, you feel like nobody cares about you...
- You need to see, the compassion and affection and the love through Christ... That He came to do everything necessary to save you, that He gave His life up for you!

Here's the other thing that you can't miss... What is Paul doing yet again right here... *you can make this up*...

He's reminding them of their identity! You got to see, this is where it all starts... It is the means that the motivation for what Paul's about to say next...

- Apart from your identity, these look like rules, but in light of your identity, these are responses... Really important!
- **One is religion, the other is embracing the gospel!**

Paul says, in light of your identity in Christ:

put on **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience**,

I don't know about you but I feel like Paul was peering into my soul when he wrote these things out...

Personally, I think these things are some of the hardest things to put into practice...

Illustration:

- Just take ATL traffic for example...
- Or getting kids ready for school...
- Target pick up not ready...
- Starbucks out of PSL
- Its 4:55pm and your boss pings you, "you got a second?" and you know that you now have no choice but to work until 7pm... when you were right about to leave

So the question is how do we live out these things Paul's holding up? Well, **we go back to our identity**... *Let's walk through these things and let me show you what I mean*...

Compassion: *Bowels of mercy... Coming from the inner part of a person... Bowls were associated with the root of emotions... (funny) ... The idea is love characterized by mercy- it is tenderhearted mercy...*

- How do we put this on? We look at Jesus... We have received compassion through Christ, we respond, by being compassionate toward others...

Kindness: *Being warm-hearted and considerate toward others...*

- How do we put this on? We look at Jesus...

Humility: *considering others above yourself, considering the interest of others above yourself...*

- How do we put this on? We look at Jesus...

Gentleness: *even-tempered, meekness: meekness isn't weakness, it is power under control...*

- How do we put this on? We look at Jesus...

Patience: *self-restraint, willingness to endure*

- How do we put this on? We look at Jesus...

Then Paul continues in verse 13...

13 bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. **Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.**

Remember Paul's after unity here- he's after the forming of a new community here around our identity in Christ... The Church

*And he says here in the midst of this: **Bear with one another...** Or put up with one another...*

- Paul knows that in Christian community you will be brought into close proximity with people that are very different than you...
 - **Funny...**
- Listen, we are one big dysfunctional family, held together by Jesus... Got to put up with the crazy uncles and aunts!

He says forgive... We don't like this one, it's hard- i think it's why Paul roots it specifically in Jesus here... **Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.**

Pauls makes us remember what we've been forgiven of as a motivation for us to also forgive...

Here's the thing I want you to see in regards of the forgiveness we've recieved: **God's forgiveness wasn't without sacrifice**

The same will be true for us...It means that you laydown your grievance, you lay down your accusations...

Verse 14:

14 Above all, put on **love, which is the perfect bond of unity.** **15** And let the **peace of Christ**, to which you were also called in one body, **rule your hearts.** **And be thankful.**

Paul is pointing us again here to unity within the body...

The first thing he holds up here are the means for unity is **love...**

We experience love in/through Christ... The way that we put it on, the way that we walk in it is by loving others in the same way Christ has loved us...

- *Note: love is not a feeling it's an action, and it's a choice to love... God modeled this for us...*
- What does this look like? **intentional service and sacrifice...** And it's taking pleasure in doing that... Only way we can take pleasure in sacrifice and service is by reflecting on the way that Chsrit did it for us!

Then he says **let the peace of Christ rule your hearts...**

IOW: the peace of Christ is to be our referee¹

Example: In sports, the referee is the one who determines the outcome of a discrepancy...

The same is true for us when differences or discrepancies come up among you and another brother or sister **the peace of Christ determines the outcome...**

Here's how this works... As Christians we've been reconciled to God through Christ, we have peace where there was hostility...

- The peace that we have with God should overflow to peaceful relationships with one another...

The Paul says **be thankful...** He's about to hit on this 2 more times in the next 2 verses... He also hit on it in **Col. 2:7...**

I've told you this is the you can summarize the essence of the Christian life with this word **gratitude or thankfulness** same root word in greek... It's a big deal...

¹ Wording from Mark Mullery.

Romans 1:21: For though they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or show **gratitude**. Instead, their thinking became worthless, and their senseless hearts were darkened.

Do you see the danger here, of knowing about God, but not being grateful and thankful for what God has done...

Then Paul says this in **Verse 16:**

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

The Word of Christ has to be central in the church through everything that we do...

- This is why week after week we just teach the bible...
- This is why everything we do comes from the bible, I told you a free weeks ago, **everything we do either flows from Jesus or points directly to Jesus...**

This is also why I teach the way that I teach... I want **you** to be able to do what I do...

Because this actually points us beyond what I'm doing up here...

What we're doing this morning is only **one aspect** of the church, this is the gathering...

This passage was written to the church, so that means that you should be **teaching** and **admonishing** (means to warn or reprimand) each other with the Word of Christ...

- Teaching and admonishing doesn't just happen on the weekend, because discipleship isn't a one day a week thing, it is a life on life thing...

Let me ask you this: Does the word of Christ dwell richly in you?

- When asked about something, do you speak the Word?

Are you teaching and admonishing one another?!? Do you have a space to do that?

Let me ask you this, **do you have an avenue to do that?**

- This is why community groups are so important here at Image Church!

Something else that we see here is singing **psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.**

Singing is not something that's optional for you as a Christian...

- **We sing to affirm the truths of God...**
 - You're owning the reality of what you sing...
- **We sing to be reminded of the truths of God...**
 - Rehearsing them as you sing...
- **We sing to celebrate who God is and what He's done through Christ...**

John Piper: God has given singing to his people as one of the most precious and powerful expressions of our gladness in his glory.

- **Something happens when we sing together... It unifies us...**

With Gratitude... There it is again...

- *Hands in your pockets?*
 - Sometimes you have to

There's a commitment piece that's here...

- For some of you the reason why you don't have any spiritual fervor in your life, the reason why you don't feel motivated or moved is because you are not committed to these things with other believers...

Example: There are others of you and your treating the church like and an **Air B&B** and not a home with a family...

- Some of you need to become part of a local church...
 - It doesn't have to be this one!

Verse 17

17 And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is a summary verse, fitting conclusion...

This is like a mission statement verse...not only do we honor God within the church but also outside of the church!

You almost see a progression from **verse 16** here. In the same way the worship gathering should be focused on the "message of Christ," life outside of the gathering is lived in a way that reflects the worship of Christ!²

- We're going to see in the back half of chapter 3, what this looks like... Paul is going to continue to flesh this out so come back next week as we will see what "doing everything in the name of Jesus" looks like...

The point is this: *worship is the call of the Christian life... Worship is a core value... We define worship as: living everyday life in light of the gospel!*

Conclusion [VAMP]

Jesus is after every square inch of our lives

Listen, **Your new identity in Christ takes you deeper into the things of Christ making you more like Christ...**

Here's where I will close... The inverse of what we've been talking about over the past 2 weeks is also true... **A lack of Christlike activity shows that there's a gap in how you're viewing your identity...**

IOW: if there's not a cycle of repentance in the processes of putting off and putting on... Then it means one of two things...

- Forgotten the implications of the gospel...
- You have never received the gospel...

Where do you need to repent and reorient...

What areas are you not walking in that we talked about today? Would you look to Jesus and see that he paid for that, but also that He's the one that will propel you in that area?!?

- Would you live in light of what you have received...

The gospel to us and through us... That is our heart... That is what it means to be a Christian and for us to flourish as a church body!

Some of you need to believe for the very first time...

Pray

² Moo, D. J. (2008). *The letters to the Colossians and to Philemon* (pp. 291–292). Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co.