

Colossians 3

Wisdom

We are complete in Jesus

- **Chapters 1-2 Position** Who we are/Who Jesus is to combat heretical teaching
- **Chapters 3-4 Practice** Applying knowledge in everyday life: def. Wisdom

I. Position and Practice

1 If [Since] then you **were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting** at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.**

- **We are Complete in Christ:** Died, Buried, Raised, **Ascended with Jesus**

Ephesians 2:6 ...and [God] raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...

- **Positionally** we are already with Christ in Heaven
- **Practically** we work out the details here on Earth

Our Practice on Earth should Reflect Our Position in Heaven
Seek the things God loves/Put away the things God hates

3 For **you died**, and your life is **hidden with Christ** in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then **you also will appear with Him in glory.**

When Jesus our life returns we will *practically* be with Him in Glory
IOWs In the Twinkling of an Eye...Position and Practice become One

1 John 3:2 ... we are [now] children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when **He is revealed, we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is.

- **Positionally** we are already with Christ in Heaven
- **Practically** we work out the details here on Earth

Our Practice on Earth should Reflect Our Position in Heaven
Seek the things God loves/Leave behind the things God hates

5 Therefore **put to death** our members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Since our destination is Heaven...Start practicing here on earth
Chapters 3-4 are Practical Application of Chapters 1-2

- **3 Lists in this Ch.... Two:** What to put away/**One:** What to put on
- **List #1: What to put away:** Things God hates and commands us [not Him] to put to death

1. **Fornication:** *porneia*. Sex before/Outside of Marriage
2. **Uncleanness:** One-night stands, etc. Dirty talk
3. **Passion:** When pleasure becomes god. Led by flesh/feelings not Spirit/Faith

1 Corinthians 6:9 [1st three sexual sin] Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither **fornicators**, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites ... will inherit the Kingdom of God. **18** Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality **sins against his own body.**

4. **Evil Desire:** Craving what God forbids....because He forbids it
5. **Covetousness:** Idolatry. How? When money, things, people above Christ

6 Because of **these things** the **wrath of God is coming** upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves **once walked** when you lived in them.

1 Corinthians 6:11 And **such were some of you.** But you were **washed**, but you were **sanctified**, but you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and **by the Spirit** of our God.

Titus 3:3 ...we ourselves were also **once foolish**, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 **But** when the **kindness and the love of God our Savior** toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the **washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit...**

We did things worthy of God's wrath...and Jesus rescued us!

8 **But now** you yourselves are to **put off all these:** anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

- **List #2:** Just in case any missed in #1
 1. **Anger:** Love of/Waiting for the opportunity. rt. to stretch for it
 2. **Wrath:** Fierce anger boiling up
 3. **Blasphemy:** Slander/Evil speaking especially toward deity
 4. **Filthy Language:** Obscenity. Four letter words. Base

9 **Do not lie** to one another, **since you have put off** the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but **Christ is all and in all.**

- **Do not lie** to one another
 - IOWs Be the person God created/enabled you to be by His Spirit
- Since you **have** [past tense] put off the old man and put on Christ . When?

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

By faith you've already put off the old man Adam and put on Christ **Positionally**...Now do that **Practically**. Workout here what is already done there. **IOWs be who you really are!**

Philippians 2:12b ...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is **God who works in you both to will and to do** for His good pleasure.

- **Positionally** we are already with Christ in Heaven
 - **Practically** we work out the details here on Earth
1. **Put on** the New Man Jesus
 2. **Put off** the old man Adam

IOWs As we put on/put off we promote Holy Spirit Renewing
v10 Being renewed into the image of Him who created us

2 Corinthians 4:16 [I'm falling apart?] ...we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet [as we yield] the **inward man is being renewed day by day.**

IOWs Yeilding to His Spirit leads to individual growth **and** worldwide corporate unity
v11 In Christ we are all one united by His Spirit

Romans 10:12 ...there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For **"whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by **one Spirit** we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into **one Spirit.**

- **Positionally** we are already with Christ in Heaven
 - **Practically** we work out the details here on Earth
- **Ch.2:** Since we are complete in Christ and...
 - **Ch.3** Since He is all we need and in us all we now ask...
1. What are the Godly characteristics others should notice?
 2. What is the Godly fruit deceivers will be unable to refute?

II. Character of the New Man Living w/in the Simplicity of Christ

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;** 13 **bearing with** one another, and **forgiving one another**, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ **forgave you, so you also must do.** 14 But above all these things **put on love**, which is the **bond of perfection.**

Put on the things God loves....

- **List #3** The Good List
1. Tender Mercies. NT Compassion from bowels. **OT** Womb. Care in the womb
 2. Kindness
 3. Humility
 4. Meekness
 5. Longsuffering
 6. Willingness to bear with others
 7. Heart to forgive others as Jesus did us...So you must do

Above all these things **put on Love**
The bond of perfection: Greatest of Godly Attributes

1 Peter 4:8 And above all things **have fervent love for one another**, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."**

Love others. Put on the things that God loves. **Then...**

15 ...let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. **16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly** [Being enriched with through the Word with...] wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. **17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- **Put on/Put off/Let:** gr. *brab-yoo'-o* Be an umpire. Decide. Determine to...

Let the Peace of God reign in our Hearts

John 14:27 [God wants Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, **neither let it be afraid.**

Philippians 4:7 [Pray/Give thanks] ...and the **peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Let the Word of God dwell in our Hearts
Overflow to others...

John 7:38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**

Ephesians 5:19 Speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and **making melody in your heart to the Lord...**

- **Whatever else you do:** Let it match your **Heavenly Position**

Do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus
Giving thanks to God the Father through Him

1 Corinthians 10:31 ...**whatever you do**, do all to the glory of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 ...**in everything give thanks...** this is the will of God...for you.

- **Practice in Line with Position:** Put on the things God loves

III. Christian Home

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is **not the author** of confusion but of peace...

Thus God reveals Authority Structures within Godhead/Churches/Families

- **Godhead** Father/Son/Holy Spirit. Equal yet Spirit submits to Jesus/Jesus to Father

- **Church** Pastor/Elders/Deacons. Mighty men God. Firm foundation. Mind Christ
- **Family** Husband/Wife/Children. Equal yet order of authority

Even when society changes drastically *God's Word never changes...It is Immutable*
IOWs What God's Word is about to say is not simply for Paul's day...but for ours

18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

The Problem? We are Broken

- Consequences of God's curse on mankind for sin [as stated to Eve...]

3:16b ...Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you

IOWs From now on...

- The woman will seek to usurp the man's God-given authority [Disrespect]
- And when she tries...He will respond by ruling over her harshly [Unloving]
- And if that doesn't work cower into a hole/Relinquish all authority [Upside Down]

Ephesians 5:21 [All are called to submit] Submit to one another in the **fear of God**. [Withing family structure] 22 Wives, **submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord**. 23 For the husband is **head of the wife**, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so **let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.**

Wives Submit to your Husbands. Why?

- Because God said so. He knows what makes a family work
- Because that is what motivates your husband to God [Script below]Be his foundation
- Because it demonstrates your fear of God
- Because God calls the husband the Spiritual head of the wife
- Because God is a God of order/Not chaos in the home

Wives...Submit as is fitting in the Lord?

IOWs God overrules submission when we are commanded to disobey Him

What if they are not believers or not acting like a believer?

Q. What if they are a bad husband? **A.** God says submit anyway...

1 Peter 3:1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that **even if some do not obey the word**, they, **without a word**, may be **won by the conduct of their wives**, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct **accompanied by fear** [Of Who? Not husband] . 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a **gentle and quiet spirit**, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the **holy women who trusted in God** also adorned themselves, being **submissive to their own husbands**, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

Holy women of the Old Testament adorned made themselves beautiful...by submitting to their husbands. What is beautiful about submitting to your husband. You are demonstrating your fear of/reverence to God which is the **beginning of wisdom and wisdom is beauty.**

- **E.g.** Sarah obeyed God by submitting to Abraham [liar] even calling Abe Lord

- Wives are like Sarah when submitting to their husband/not afraid with any terror?

IOWs You are not afraid of your husband taking advantage of your submission. Why? You know [wise] that as you obey/fear God in this area **God will deal with your husband**

Psalm 34:7 [David] The **angel** of the Lord **encamps all around those who fear Him**, And delivers them.

In Bible times as well as today Holy women of God make themselves beautiful before God as they submit to their husbands knowing that that the greater reality is that they are submitting to God. [NJC] **Also...**

With greater authority comes the same degree of responsibility. With responsibility comes a greater degree of accountability. Every husband will have to give and account as to how he spiritually led his wife and children. When a husband vacates his God-given position, the wife will be tempted to fill the spiritual vacuum and the nightmare of Genesis 3 results. [NJC]

- **BTW:** We have the strongest most Godly women. We would not be the church we are
- **In Short:** Wives submit to your husbands because that is God's will for the family

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

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ...**32** This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular **so love his own wife as himself**, and let the wife see that she **respects her husband**.

Husbands Love Your Wives. Why?

- Because God said so. He knows what makes a family work
- Because it is a picture of Christ and His Bride. Sacrificial love to the death
- Because Husbands/Wives are equal heirs together with Christ
- Because if we don't love our wives the sky becomes brass...

1 Peter 3:7... Husbands, likewise, **dwell with them with understanding**, giving honor to the wife, as to the **weaker vessel**, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, **that your prayers may not be hindered**.

- **In short:** Wives submit to your husbands. Husbands love your wives

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

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may **be well with you** and you may **live long on the earth**."

Children Obey your Parents. Why? None of these are a debate. Why?

- Because God said so. He knows what makes a family work
- Because it pleases the Lord.
- Because it is the first commandment w/a promise [2]

1. That life may be well with you
 2. That you may live long on the earth
- **NOTE:** Children obey parents **in the Lord.**
 God overrules submission when we are commanded to disobey Him
 Government/Home/Work/Family
 - **In Short:** Children obey your parents because it is right. Learn to submit to God

21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Ephesians 6:4 ... fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Fathers Do Not Provoke your Children: Why?

- Because God said so. He knows what makes a family work
- Because children will lose heart if provoked by Fathers...
 1. **Irritating for the sake of irritating**
 2. **Making unreasonable demands**
 3. **Teasing/Fault finding...**resulting in giving up...No. **Instead:**

Fathers Train your Children up in the Admonition of the Lord

Proverbs 1:8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; 9 They will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck.

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

Ephesians 6:5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, [fear of who. Not the boss] in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord...

1 Timothy 6:1 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.

Employees be Obedient to your Employers. Why?

- Because God said so...draws others to Christ
- Because it is an act of fearing God
- Because you will be rewarded by God
- Because it will bring forth fruit: God's Name/Teaching exalted

Q. What if they are a bad boss? **A.** Obey anyway...

1 Peter 2:18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

What does Godly obedience at work look like?

- **Invisible:** Not to be seen/Get something in return [People pleaser]
- **Motivated** by a sincere heart in the fear of God not man [God-pleaser]
- **Knowing** you are doing the will of God for God not man
- **Seeking** the Holy Spirit to be well pleasing in all things to God w/relation to work

Titus 2:9 Exhort bondservants to be **obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.**

How do we adorn the teachings of Christ in all things at work?

- Not talking back. Not stealing
- Showing loyalty to those in charge, **even the mean ones. Why...**

1 Timothy 2:4 ...[God] desires **all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth. [Yes, even your boss]

23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

We serve an Awesome, Loving, Kind and Faithful God
He deserves to be served heartily. How?

- **Wives** ...respect your husbands *In service to the Lord*
- **Husbands** ...love your wives *In service to the Lord*
- **Children** ...obey your parents *In service to the Lord*
- **Employees** ...obey your bosses *In service to the Lord. v25* No wiggle room

Whatever you do, do in service to the Lord and not men
That makes it a little easier

- **Chapters 1-2** Position Complete in Christ in Heaven Knowledge
- **Chapters 3-4** Practice Life here on earth worked out Wisdom

Objective: That our Earthly Practice lines up with our Heavenly Position

When Christ who is our life appears...We also will appear with Him in glory