

Living Under the Lordship of Christ

Good Counsel pt. 2

Colossians 3:1-17

Review :

Directive 1 -- Pursue life from an eternal perspective.

Underlying Principle: *We pursue what our minds grasp.*

The Impetus

The reason we set our mind on things above rests not in our own passions and will but is the result of being united with Christ.

Paul says:

“If then you are raised with Christ,” (v. 1)

“For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (v. 3)

When we are united with Christ through faith in his death and resurrection, we become unified with him and his mind and his pursuits become our own.

Rather than attempting to live the Christian life in our own strength or ability, we should rest in the fact we have died to ourselves and live in and through Christ and know that His energy is powerfully working in us.

Understanding Paul's Lists

- *The lists are not exhaustive in either prohibited behaviors or encouraged behaviors.*
- *They are not the essence of salvation, rather they are a result of our salvation.*
- *They embody a consistent teaching and approach employed throughout scripture.*
- *The lists establish expectations for the people of God regarding sanctification.*
- *These lists also remind us of the incompatibility of light and darkness, truth and error and the flesh /sin nature and Spirit.*
- *These lists create moral definition for a morally obscured culture.*

A question that inevitably rises to the surface is “who has the right to dictate their version of morality.”

Paul is not here attempting to confront his world or ours with a sectarian claim on morality. Rather, he is anchoring his claims in transcendent truths which are fundamental to the moral character of God and therefore universal in their context, and fully applicable in their content.

Directive 2 -- *Get rid of the behaviors of the old self*

Underlying principle: There are behaviors inconsistent and incompatible with Christian living.

Three Categories

Immorality and lust

Words and Attitudes

Lying

Three Actions

Put them to death

Put them away

Do not lie