

## THE DEEPER LIFE – Members Only!

### Colossians 3:1-17

First – Impacts our perspective. – (v.1-4)

Seek – to crave, demand something from someone.

(Jeremiah 29:13) And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Set – literally, “*set your affection on.*” To savor, to direct one’s mind to a thing; to strive for.

Hidden – Krypto (Crypt): concealed, by covering.

John 12:20-26

Secondly – Cancelation of previous memberships. – (v.5-8).

(1 Corinthians 15:31b) “...I die daily.”

Thirdly – Changes our attire. – (v.9-14).

(Ephesians 4:20-24) But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Conformity is “socialism,” and “legalism.” Unity in Christ, *however*, is “relational.”

*It's not a lack of conflict which makes a church strong, but the willingness of its “members” to love one another through the conflict.*

Love will not make you “perfect,” but it will “perfect” your heart, to love others, as Christ loves us!

Fourth – Guided by peace and the word. – (v.15-17).

First - (v.15) “Let the peace of God rule” – “umpire.”

(Isaiah 26:3) You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

“And be thankful” – evidence of “faith” resting in God, rather than “wrestling” with problems.

Second - (v.16a) “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”

James 1:22-25.

“Goodness in, goodness out!” (Read: v.17).

CONCLUSION: “Members Only” in Jesus, is an “open membership!”

(John 1:12-13) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.