

## Lesson 10

# Do Everything in the Name

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, Colossians 3.17.

## Introduction

Colossians 3.17 is the end of a line of thinking that began at 2.6-7, where Paul writes what some have called the thesis statement of Colossians:

So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude.

What is written here – a call for spiritual maturity – is the basis for which everything else in chapter 2-3 flows. When Paul says *walk in Him*, he is instructing our daily life and attitudes to reflect Christ. *Whoever says he abides in him ought to talk in the same way in which he walked*, 1 John 2.6.

We should also connect what is said at the beginning of Colossians 2.6. We have *received Christ Jesus as the Lord*. There is a significance to the way Paul writes these words. It is seen more clearly in the original language. He says, “you have received Christ Jesus *the* one who is *the* Lord.” Christians embrace not just a message, but a Person: Jesus Christ. He is the Lord of your life. He has the right to rule and the authority to determine and define what is honorable and righteous. His pleasure is to be the first thing we consider as we lead our life. No matter the situation, His authority applies. So, we walk in union with Him, doing what he would do. How did Jesus walk?

- He walked in love.
- He walked in wisdom.
- He walked in truth.
- He walked in the Spirit.
- He walked in holiness.

Do these things describe the pattern of your life? In an increasing way?

Have we set our mind on things above, Colossians 3.1-2?

Have we put off the old person with all its old habits and sins, Colossians 3.5-9?

Are we committed to being renewed in the Spirit of our mind, Colossians 3.10?

Are we living consistently with our new reality of having been chosen, holy, and beloved, Colossians 3.12?

## Whatever You do

Now, let's connect Colossians 3.17. If we have received Christ Jesus as Lord, it would only make sense that we do everything in His name:

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.

The wording in the original language reads: “whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all.” Our English translations have filled in the expression to help us understand. Nothing escapes the kingship of Jesus because everything is now conducted in union with him. Whatever we do, word, deed, everything, is to be done in His name.

This verse is a succinct summary of Christian living. It applies across the board to every thought, word, and deed. It has much more to do with our personal behavior and attitudes regarding our relationships with others in the local body than it does to authority in religious practices contrasted to denominationalism. We must keep the context in mind. The focus in this section is about our behavior in conjunction with other believers and people in the world. How do we treat them? How do we regard them? Everything we do needs to be consistent with the person of Jesus Christ.

## No Codebook of Rules

The New Testament does not contain a codebook of rules. While sometimes we may wish we were left more explicit details or regulations, the Spirit left us with a set of principles in many cases, with the expectation for us to ask ourselves, “What would Jesus do here?” “Is this something I can engage in without compromising my influence for Christ?” “Can I do this thing *in the name of Christ* – whose reputation is at stake – in the way I engage in my conduct?” “Will this thing bring glory to God, and can I do it out of a sense of gratitude and thankfulness for the opportunity of doing it?”

While there may be no specifics given, when we face these things with integrity, the person who allows Christ to rule their heart and actions will do the right thing. A listing of rules might sound convenient, but human history has proven man’s ability to invent ways to get around rules and regulations. It is not as easy to get around the comprehensive statement of Christian duty that this verse provides.

If something confronts you and you are not sure how if it would dishonor Christ, then don’t do it. If you are sure you can do it in submission to the Lord, in line with His Word, then do it joyfully and thankfully!

## Speaking of Thankfulness

We need to do all we do *giving thanks through Him to God the Father*. This applies to even while we endure difficult circumstances, trusting that he is working through them to accomplish His intentions with us. We may not understand the “why,” or know “how long,” but we are committed to bringing Him glory in all situations. The opposite of thankfulness is grumbling. In the wilderness, the children of Israel grumbled continually – and it kept an entire generation from receiving the inheritance. Grumbling impugns the character of God. It implies either, “God isn’t good,” or “He isn’t in control of my life.”

Thankfulness extends beyond Sunday to every day of our life. There is no division between the sacred and the secular for the Christian. Every day is another day to live thankfully under the dominion and authority of Jesus Christ. In every aspect of life we can reflect the joy of salvation as we speak and act in the name of Christ.

## Conclusion

Colossians 3.17 closes the line of thinking that began in 2.6. We represent Jesus in everything we do. He empowers us to do good. We cooperate with the direction the Spirit gives, with a spirit of gratefulness and thankfulness. God has done so much for us. Praise be to Him!

## For Thought and Reflection

1. What does it mean to walk in Christ?
2. How does Colossians 3.17 connect back to the expectation of Colossians 2.6?
3. What is in the context of Colossians 3.17? How does the teaching of 3.12-14 apply in carrying out the directive of 3.17?
4. Why do you think the Spirit chose not to give us a codebook of rules ... instead of giving us governing principles by which to live?
5. What is the opposite of thankfulness? Why is it condemned in Scripture? What are some things you can do to avoid it?
6. Did God design the Christian life to have a separation between the sacred and the secular? Explain?
7. What are some things you can do to more effectively carry out the expectation of Colossians 3.17?