

# “How To Have Great Relationships!”

## Colossians Chapter 3:1-14

### I) RELATE TO GOD (v1-4)

(v1) **SEEK** those THINGS which are above! - Jesus said in Matthew 6:33-34 - *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.* Also in Luke 19:10 - *for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

(v2) **SET** your MIND on things above! - Four separate Greek words account for nearly all instances of "mind" in the New Testament. They all mean much the same thing: understanding, thought, mind, reason. While today we think of a person's mind in a morally neutral way, in the New Testament the mind was clearly thought of as either good or evil. Negatively, the mind may be "hardened" (2 Corinthians 3:14), "blinded" (2 Corinthians 4:4), "corrupt" (2 Timothy 3:8), and "debased" (Romans 1:28). On the positive side, humans may have minds which are renewed (Romans 12:2) and pure (2 Peter 3:1). They may love God with all their minds (Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27) and have God's laws implanted in their minds (Hebrews 8:10). Since Christians have "the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16), they are instructed to be united in mind (Romans 12:16; 1 Peter 3:8).

(v3-4) **Christ who is our LIFE!** - The word LIFE is found 495 times in the Bible, one would have to say that God is PRO-LIFE! Of Jesus, John wrote, *"In Him was life and the life was the light of men"* (John 1:4). Jesus said in **John 8:12** - *"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."* In **John 12:25** we are challenged by the words of Christ, *"He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."* Eternal life means more than eternal existence. Eternal life refers to eternal fellowship with God. *"This is eternal life,"* Jesus declared, *"that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent"* (John 17:3). Remember Jesus promise in **John 10:10** - *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

### II) UN-RELATE TO SIN (v5-9)

(v5) **“PUT TO DEATH”** - *Fornication* - Sex outside the realm of marriage. *Uncleanness* - Lustful, luxurious, wasteful living of impure motives, and selfish desires and pleasures, putting self first. *Passion* - When the mind is depraved and given over to impure thoughts. *Evil desires* - A desire, craving, or longing for what is forbidden, lust. *Covetousness* - A greedy desire to have more than you need; or to want something that belongs to another.

(v6-7) Let's not be *disobedient*, lest we find ourselves facing the *wrath of God!* The word *wrath* is *orge* in Greek and declares God's *righteous judgment.*

(v8-9) **“PUT OFF ALL THESE”** - *Anger* - Having a bad character or temper led by violent impulse and emotions. *Wrath* - Fierceness and indignation that seeks to do others harm. *Malice* - Not ashamed to break laws and the desire to do wrong to others. *Blasphemy* - To slander injure, or speak bad against another's good name and character. *Filthy language* - Obscene, unedifying speech. *Lying* - Speaking something that is not true. Putting off emotional wrongdoings, for we are called to be one.

### III) RELATE TO ONE ANOTHER (v10-14)

(v10-11) We must **RENEW OUR MINDS** according to HIS IMAGE OF LOVE, LIFE AND LIGHT! God's salvation and transformation is available for all people through Christ.

(v12-13) **“PUT ON ALL THESE”** - Put on **TENDER MERCIES** - Having compassion in the heart at all times. Put on **KINDNESS** - Being morally good; having integrity. Put on **HUMILITY** - A deep sense of one's moral littleness. Not proud. Put on **MEEKNESS** - Gentleness and mild mannered. Put on **LONGSUFFERING** - Patient endurance, steadfastness, and perseverance. Put on **BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER** - To lift up and sustain firmly. Put on **FORGIVENESS** - To grant forgiveness graciously and freely.

(v14) **“Above all these things PUT ON LOVE”** - **LOVE** (Greek - *agape*) is declared to be the chief test of Christian discipleship (**John 13:35; Matthew 5:44; 1 John 3:14**). Also, love is the highest motive or ground of moral actions. Without this all other motives fall short of furnishing the true stimulus of Christian living. As all sin roots itself in selfishness, so all virtue springs out of love; (**Matthew 22:37-39; 5:43-48; John 14:15,21; 15:12-14; Romans 13:8; 1 Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:14**).

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

## “CROSS TRAINING!”

### FIVE STEPS TO CROSS TRAINING:

- RECOGNIZE
- REPENT
- RECONCILE
- RESOLVE
- RESTORE

L

O

V

E

L O V E O N E A N O T H E R

G

O

D

**Jesus said:**

*“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me,  
let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and  
follow me.”*

**Luke 9:23**