

When I have the chance to fill in on Sunday mornings, I have been slowly working my way through Colossians. Open in your bible to Colossians chapter 3 and we are going to work through the next section.

Colossians is divided into two main parts. Chapters 1 and 2 are focused on teaching, and then there is a shift that happens in chapter 3 to focusing on application, living out this truth that continues all the way through chapter 4.

### **Colossians 3:1-3 ESV**

- (1) **If then you have been raised with Christ**, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
- (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.
- (3) For you have died, and **your life is hidden with Christ in God**.

This chapter is all about our new life that we have with Christ.

As a believer everything about us has changed. We have been raised with Christ and have an entirely new life.

### **Colossians 3:9-10 ESV**

- (9) Do not lie to one another, **seeing that you have put off the old self** with its practices
- (10) **and have put on the new self**, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

This chapter is going to examine many aspects of that new life and encourage us to walk in it. This is what spiritual growth and maturity looks like. Learning each day how to walk in the new life that we have in Christ.

This new life is practical it should permeate every aspect of who we are, and yet for many of us it doesn't.

### **2 Peter 1:9 ESV**

- (9) For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, **having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins**.

It is not only possible but it is common for believers who have a new life in Christ to forget they have been freed from sin and live in their own life. This is heartbreaking. There is no hope, satisfaction, or peace in our old life.

### **Colossians 3:15 ESV**

- (15) And **let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts**, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

In our new life not only are we at peace with God. Our sins are paid for. But we have access to the peace of God. His peace can come into our hearts and provide a spiritual and eternal lens to see life and the world through.

If there was ever a time we needed to live in this new life and let His peace rule in us it is now! We have to stop thinking, analyzing, processing things as the world does. We have a new life!

### **Colossians 3:16 ESV**

(16) **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly**, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

One of the key things to walking in this new life is to know God's word. But notice this verse knowing the word is not enough. We need to let God's truth dwell in us richly. We need to let the truth come into our lives and divide between what is from our old life and what is from our new life.

### **Hebrews 4:12 ESV**

(12) **For the word of God is living and active**, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, **and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart**.

We cannot live in this new life without knowing the word of God and thinking critically through it and asking God to show us how to apply it in our lives.

### **Colossians 3:17-25 ESV**

(17) And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

(19) Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

(20) Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

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

(22) Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

(23) Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

(24) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

(25) For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

### Colossians 3:17 ESV

(17) And whatever you do, in word or deed, **do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Part of living in our new life is understanding what it means to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. It means incorporating God, His truth and His calling on our life into everything we do. This is not about earthly success.

Think about the whole context of this verse, our new life in Christ cannot be reduced to church or religious activities. This new life should touch everything we do. There is not a single aspect of our daily routine that should not be directly affected by our new life in Christ.

### 2 Peter 1:3-8 ESV

(3) His divine power **has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

Think about this incredible promise. **God not only saves us and gives a new life. He then promises to give us absolutely everything we will need to grow and walk in this new life.** The holy spirit, the word of God, the church, our spiritual gift, the gifts of those around us. We have what we need

**Do we use the things given to us or do we keep looking for something else?**

(4) by which He has granted to us his precious and **very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

We have this new life and are saved by His promises.

(5) For this very reason, **make every effort to supplement** your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,

We have been promised everything we need so then here comes the commands live in it. Grab everything this new life has to offer. Notice what this verse implies. If you stop the Christian life at just having faith for salvation you are missing so much! If you stop there you will never understand how to **“do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,”**

(6) and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,

(7) and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

(8) For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, **they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

We just had maturity defined for us. The list of how to grow deeper and have a fruitful effective walk involved:

- **virtue** - *excellence of character,*
- **knowledge** - You can't mature without understanding who God is
- **self-control** - restraint of one's emotions, impulses, or desires
- **steadfastness** - the capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty, *patience, endurance, fortitude, steadfastness, perseverance*
- **Godliness** - awesome respect accorded to God, *devoutness*
- **brotherly affection** - This is a brotherly friendly type of love. It is a care for people
- **love** - this is agape the self-sacrificial love

If we start maturing and let the Holy Spirit guide us in living these attributes out, now all of a sudden "**doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,**" seems possible. Nothing is off limits or doesn't become affected by this new life and this is why Our passage in Colossians starts moving into other aspects of our life's. The point is this new life will change your relationships and how we are to interact in them.

### **Colossians 3:17-18 ESV**

(17) And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(18) Wives, **submit** to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

There are some verses that have a lot of unhealthy baggage with them. This is one of them. This idea of wives submitting to your own husband has been so misunderstood and mistaught that it is hard to get to the truth of what is being addressed here.

To understand this verse, we have to put it in the context of our new life and realize that submission is a common theme throughout scripture. Wives aren't the only people called to submit **in fact all of us in one way or another are to be practicing submission.**

### **Jesus gave us examples of submission.**

When He was lost at the temple (He is 12)...

### **Luke 2:48-51 ESV**

(48) And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress."

(49) And He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? **Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"**

(50) And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.

(51) And He went down with them and came to Nazareth **and was submissive to them.** And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

The word used is identical to Colossians, Jesus knows who He is and spends the next 18 years in daily submission to Mary and Joseph. This reveals two huge concepts about Biblical submission.

1. It is voluntary. Husbands are not to demand their wife to be submissive, just as Mary and Joseph didn't demand Jesus be submissive. Jesus willingly put himself into that role.
2. Submission has nothing to do with value, worth, status, or importance. Jesus, who is the God of the universe, who created all things, was willing to submit himself to Mary and Joseph. It is a term of order and love, not worth. Women are not to be demeaned or belittled because they are called to submit. **God set up the marriage to have roles for the sake of order. Why? Because our God is a God of order.**

**Jesus also Submits Himself within the trinity to God the Father.**

#### **1 Corinthians 15:28 NLT**

(28) Then, when all things are under his authority, the Son **will put himself** under God's **authority**, so that God, who gave his Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere.

Within the trinity God the son submits Himself to God the Father. Again, willingly, and not demeaning or devaluing to Jesus.

**In fact we are all called to submit to each other within the Church.**

#### **Ephesians 5:21 ESV**

(21) **submitting** to one another out of reverence for Christ.

This applies to all believers within the Church. We are to love and care for each other and be willing to submit ourselves to each other for the sake of order.

**The Church is called to submit ultimately to Jesus.**

#### **Ephesians 5:22-24 ESV**

(22) Wives, **submit** to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

(23) For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

(24) Now as the **church submits to Christ**, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

As you can see submission is a much larger concept than just wives to husbands. **Within the new life, submission is willingly lowering yourself, for the sake of order, to someone who loves and cares for you, and has your best interest in heart.**

This can be seen in the Church's submission to Christ, He gently leads, and cares for us. We love and submit to Him because He loves us so much.

Also, it should be very clear that this absolutely does not say:

Women submit to men  
Wives obey your husbands

### **Colossians 3: 18 ESV**

(18) Wives, submit to **your** husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

### **1 Peter 3:5 ESV**

(5) For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by **submitting** to their **own husbands**,

In premarital counseling, I always give couples the same assignment...

### **Colossians 3:19 ESV**

(19) Husbands, **love your wives**, and **do not be harsh with them**.

Everyone has different sin issues. Some are tied to our personality, and some are tied even to our gender. Men can have a natural sinful bent to being harsh, unloving, uncaring, and absent. Isn't this the formula for most sitcom husbands, the wife really runs the family and the husband is the bumbling goofball.

Husbands are called to so much more.

### **1 Peter 3:7 YLT**

(7) The husbands, in like manner, dwelling with them, **according to knowledge, as to a weaker vessel** -- to the wife -- **imparting honour**, as also being heirs together of the grace of life, **that your prayers be not hindered**.

#### **according to knowledge,**

Husbands do we really know our wives. Do we study them. Pay attention to them. Listen when they talk. According to knowledge literally means we should study our wives. I find it interesting how precise men can be when we want to. Sports stats, correct technique to hunt or fish. Yet when it comes to our wife, we might even struggle with the little details, what is here favorite: meal, flower, way to relax?

#### **as to a weaker vessel**

Women are fragile china vases this is not a comment on their strength but, you cannot treat a women the same way you treat a guy.

**imparting honour**

Studying our wives should lead us to give them honor

**that your prayers be not hindered.**

Husbands, your relationship with God is directly affected by your relationship with your wife. We cannot compartmentalize things in the new life God has called us to. If there are issues between you and your spouse it will impact your walk with God.

This love husbands are called to is not only practical but it is a very high calling.

**Ephesians 5:25-28 ESV**

- (25) Husbands, **love your wives, as Christ loved the church** and gave himself up for her,  
 (26) **that He might sanctify her**, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,  
 (27) so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, **that she might be holy and without blemish.**  
 (28) **In the same way husbands should love their wives** as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Husbands are called to have a self-sacrificial love for their wife. He is to be focused on her spiritual growth and understand that He will give an account if he has helped make her more holy. Christ sanctifies the church we as husbands are called to sanctify our wives. Do not bring filth into your house. Be the leader, the one who speaks up and lovingly guides. Are we concerned as husbands about the spiritual growth of our wives.

One of my pet peeves is watching what happens to church attendance on Mother's Day as compared to Father's Day. Mother's Day is one of the fullest Sundays every year. Father's Day is always one of the lowest attended Sundays every year. One Sunday is just that one Sunday, but my fear is that it reveals a deeper issue.

**Ephesians 5:32 ESV**

- (32) This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

The example we are given, to know how to treat our wives, is to look to how Christ treats the church!

I want to take a moment, and address those who aren't married. For those who might be looking for a spouse this is your target. Women marry someone who will lead this way. A spiritual man. Men look for a wife who will be willing to submit to Godly leadership. And grow to learn how to be the man described in these passages.

Our theme this morning really isn't marriage. It is how this new life in Christ should touch every part of our life. Especially our relationships. And yes, this includes singleness.

### 1 Corinthians 7:7-8 ESV

(7) I wish that all were as I myself am. **But each has his own gift from God**, one of one kind and one of another.

(8) To the unmarried and the widows I say that **it is good for them to remain single**, as I am.

Scripture is clear, singleness is a gift. I know for some it sure doesn't feel that way. But Paul is going to expand on why it is viewed as a gift.

### 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 ESV

(32) I want you to be free from anxieties. **The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord.**

(33) But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife,

(34) and his interests are divided. **And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit.** But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.

(35) I say this for your own benefit, **not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.**

When you are single for whatever reason, you have a unique opportunity, to have undivided attention on the Lord. You can serve in unique ways that married people cannot. Your singleness is a gift to be used to glorify God and focus on Him in a unique way in this season of life, no matter how long it might be.

To wrap up I want to jump to the end of this passage, we will deal with, children, parenting, and work next week but look how this section closes out.

### Colossians 3:23-24 ESV

(23) Whatever you do, **work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,**

(24) **knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.** You are serving the Lord Christ.

#### work heartily

I think some of us hear that phrase and hear, work hard. One practical step is to make a priority list to make sure we have first things first. A lot of our list look like this:

1. God
2. Family
3. Work/Friends/ Etc.



But that is not what it means. The Greek word there is  $\psi \upsilon \chi \eta \square \varsigma$  or **psyche**, **meaning from the soul**

Everything we do should be touched by the calling of our new life in Christ. God is not supposed to be #1 on our priority list. Our relationship with Him and this new life should touch each thing on our list.

1. God
2. Glorifying God in my relationship with my family

**We get so focused on what we do.** And often we so distracted from the clear-cut commands on our life. As a believer the most important thing you will do today will be to walk in the new life Christ has given us.

#### **Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV**

- (1) I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, **urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,**
- (2) with all **humility** and **gentleness**, with **patience**, **bearing with one another in love,**
- (3) eager to maintain **the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

If we live this out this will absolutely affect how we do things. But the key to understanding the difference from just working hard and working from the soul is understanding that the grading scale has nothing to do with earthly success.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:9-10 ESV**

- (9) So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.
- (10) **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body,** whether good or evil.