

I know Jim and Barb appreciate all the prayers for her this week. She is doing well and was able to go home. Open up your Bibles to the book of Colossians.

We will start recapping chapter 3 before we get into our study this morning. Paul has moved to the practical section of the book.

### Col 3:3-13

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

As a believer we have a new life. The moment we are saved, the moment we believe in Jesus, our eternal destiny changes. We have an entire new life. But this new life does not start at eternity. It starts right now. You and I are new creations right now. Paul is going to continue to flesh out what this new life looks like.

### Col 3:5-17

(5) **Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

(6) On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

(7) In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

(8) **But now you must put them all away:** anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

(9) Do not lie to one another, **seeing that you have put off the old self** with its practices

Part of the New life is killing sin and actively trying to put off the old life. We have changed and yet there is a process of learning what it means to have a new life. We have to learn how to not act like our old self anymore. Paul uses language of old clothing we are to take off and shed that old life.

(10) **and have put on the new self**, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

We are called to put on the new life. This only possible because what Jesus has done for us. This new life is going to challenge our preconceived notions, and ideas. It will change and challenge the things that come natural to us.

(11) Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

(12) **Put on then**, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, **compassionate hearts**, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

(13) bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.**

The last time I taught we looked into the concept of forgiveness and how forgiveness and reconciliation are two separate things.

**Col 3:14**

(14) **And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.**

Paul is continuing with his clothing language. We took of the old, we put on the new and then we need the belt or over coat the garment that ties it all together. That is love. Everything in the new life that we are told to put on would be meaningless if it was without love.

Think about how hollow these characteristics become without love:

- compassionate hearts (becomes a superficial fake caring)
- kindness (becomes bribery and what I can get from it)
- humility and meekness (becomes fake self-depreciation hiding a deeply proud heart)
- patience, bearing with one another, and forgiveness (leads to holding grudges)

**1Co 13:1-8**

(1) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, **but have not love**, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

(2) And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries **and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.**

(3) If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, **but have not love, I gain nothing.**

Notice what was just said:

- You can exercise your spiritual gift to impressive degrees,
- Have profound Bible knowledge and be considered a scholar,
- Have a tremendous practical faith in God
- Be incredible generous
- Be faithful to martyrdom

But look at the outcome if it is lacking in love, it means nothing. Paul says he would be nothing without love.

(4) Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant

(5) or rude. **It does not insist on its own way**; it is not irritable or resentful;

(6) it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

(7) Love **bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

(8) **Love never ends.** As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

**1Co 13:13**

(13) So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; **but the greatest of these is love.**

Love is not a minor concept for the new life we have in Christ again it is the great binder it holds everything in the New life together.

Unfortunately, love is greatly misunderstood today. I feel like there are two large misunderstandings of love today.

One group says love means you accept all people. Love is love, who are we to judge. Some even point to Jesus and say we just need to love everyone.

One thing that is often missed is that God's love doesn't save anyone. As loving God is, He is also just and sin cannot be ignored. It had to be dealt with. **God's love could not offer forgiveness without sin being paid for.**

#### **Isiah 53:10-11 NLT**

**(10) But it was the LORD's good plan to crush Him** and cause Him grief. Yet **when His life is made an offering for sin**, He will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD's good plan will prosper in His hands.

**(11) When He sees all that is accomplished by His anguish**, He will be satisfied. And because of His experience, **my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for He will bear all their sins.**

We could be forgiven because He was crushed. Love could not save, the punishment could not be ignored, Jesus had to take it.

#### **1Jn 4:10-11**

**(10) In this is love**, not that we have loved God but that He loved us **and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

**(11) Beloved**, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Propitiation- Means that Jesus appeased God's wrath. Even in God's deep love for us his wrath was still present and had to be dealt with. This idea that we should just love all indiscriminately completely ignores God's righteous standard.

The other misunderstanding I see about Love comes from the group that understands love needs discernment and wisdom but at times they need to hear we need to be loving.

Christ wanted believers Love to be a defining characteristic of our new life

#### **Joh 13:34-35**

**(34) A new commandment I give to you**, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

**(35) By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."**

## Are we as Christians known for our love for people or the things we stand against?

I hate that this has become an either or issue in our society. Why can't I love the person and be known as loving without compromising truth. There are times we are so blunt with the truth there is not much time to love the person as they walk away.

According to Lifeway research in 2015

**52%** of women who had an abortion **and** go to church at least once a month said their local church had no influence on her decision. (That is no help, no counsel, no encouragement etc.)

Only **25%** of women who had an abortion **and** go to church at least once a month said the church reaction was loving, while **34%** said the church's reaction was judgmental.

We should be different and handle things differently because we have a new life.

### Col 3:15

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

We have a new life in Christ because we are now at peace with God.

### Eph 2:12-18

(12) remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world.**

(13) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

(14) **For HE himself is our peace**, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

We can have peace because of Him, because of the relationship we can have with Him.

(15) by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

(16) **and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.**

(17) And HE came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

(18) **For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.**

Christ made it possible for us to be at peace with God, this gave us our new life. Now that we have a new life, we can have peace here on earth. **Our future peace that is waiting for us gives us peace here.**

**Rom 8:18**

(18) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing **with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**

This does not minimize the pain of our current suffering but it allows us to look forward to our perfect peace that is waiting for us.

**Col 3:15**

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

**Rule (βραβεύετω)**

Lit., *be umpire*. Only here in the New Testament  
'award prizes in contests',

**be in control of someone's activity by making a decision, *be judge, decide, control, rule***

We are to use our new life and the glory and peace that are awaiting us as a ruler or judge as to how we handle this life.

**Php 4:5-7**

(5) Let your **reasonableness** be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

(6) do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

(7) **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

When we focus on His peace, there is a protection that happens in our heart.

**2Co 4:17-18**

(17) For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us **an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,**

(18) **as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.** For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

**The common theme in all these verses is we must compare our present situation in view of or future and the ultimate peace that is awaiting us.** When we start to focus on our glorious future we are able to start living in the New life here and experience His peace.

Another mark of the new life is found in verse 16.

**Col 3:16**

(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.

**Dwell** (*enoikeitō*). Present active imperative of *enoikeō*, to make one's home, to be at home.

This literally says let the Word of Christ, the Bible, be at Home in you. We are to value the Word and the truth in the Word.

**Psa 63:5-8**

(5)  **My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food**, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,

(6) when I remember you upon my bed,  **and meditate on you** in the watches of the night;

(7) for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

(8)  **My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.**

The Psalmist describes what it is like to meditate on the things of God. How satisfying it is to think deeply on spiritual things. This thinking has to be based on truth it has to be based on the Word. My opinions about God do no matter, the truth matters.

**It can be very dangerous to come up with a profound thought about what you think God is like, if it is not rooted and anchored in truth.**

**Psa 1:1-4**

(1)  **Blessed is the man** who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

(2) but  **his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.**

(3)  **He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.** In all that he does, he prospers.

(4) The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

We are nourished by the truth in the Word. Verse 2 says to meditate on it day and night. Colossians said to let it dwell in us richly.  **I find it sad at times that we have reduced this all-encompassing meditation down to reading a chapter a day.** The Word is supposed to be a delight and something that is hard to get off our mind.

**The more you know the Word the more you will know Christ.**

**Joh 1:1**

(1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and  **the Word was God.**

**Joh 1:14**

(14)  **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Christ is the Word. As we study scripture, (not just the gospel but the entire Bible) we will come to know Jesus more and more. You cannot be living the new life that Christ offers if you do not know much Bible. Walking in our new life is based on truth.

### Col 3:16

(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.

As we study truth it should lead us to worshipping God. Worshiping God is a giant concept that encompasses every aspect in our life which we are about to see. One way we worship is through singing.

### Psalms

A psalm was originally a song accompanied by a stringed instrument.

A *hymn* is a *song of praise*, that would be distinctively Christian.

Spiritual Songs- a *song* (ὕδῃ *ode*) is the general term for a song but Paul adds the term *spiritual*. The term may be a sacred poems which are neither psalms nor hymns,

We have a great freedom in how we can worship God through singing. As this verse shows there are a variety of styles, genres, and methods. But worship must be based on truth.

Worship is not just singing. In this new life everything we do should be worship.

### Col 3:17

(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.

This is an awesome verse. It is a verse that does not seem practical at first. It is a verse that sounds great but if you start to think about what waits for you at work tomorrow or at school or at home it becomes trickier to understand.

Does it really mean everything I do? Every mundane part of life can be done in the name of Jesus and for His glory?

Absolutely, this is what the entire chapter has been about. As a believer you have a new life available to you that reorients and changes everything. Your focus should become about eternal spiritual things even in the day to day repetition of life.

This means you bring the new life that is:

- loving
- at Peace
- Anchored in truth
- worshipful

And let God guide you in every situation.

**Mat 6:19-24**

(19) “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,

(20) **but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

(21) **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

(22) “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,

(23) but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

(24) **“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.**

**2Co 5:14-17**

(14) For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;

(15) and he died for all, **that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him** who for their sake died and was raised.

(16) **From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh.** Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

(17) **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**