

Colossians: Know Who You Are

January 22, 2011

Vol. 2 Num. 4

COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

Core Competency: Self-control

“I have the power through Christ to control myself.”

For the grace of God has appeared with salvation for all people, instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, while we wait for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:11–13)

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Introduction

A number of years ago, the book *Dress for Success*, by John Molloy, became the fashion handbook for people trying to climb the corporate ladder. Molloy's advice centered on this basic principle: always dress like your boss.

I love the idea that, as God's chosen people, we always dress like our boss. That is to say, believers are to resemble God, and to reflect his character. When others look at us, they should get an idea of what God is like. That is why Paul uses the metaphor of spiritual apparel.

Take a look at God's dress code for us. In response to God's love for us, we are to clothe ourselves with "compassion, kindness, humility, and gentleness" We are to demonstrate patience and forgiveness. To top it off, we are to "put on love", which Paul says, "binds them together in perfect unity."

This Week

As believers, our spiritual clothing is of far greater significance than our physical clothing. As you study this passage, ask yourself, "Do I take time to clothe myself with attitudes that please God? Am I wearing what people most need to see: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness and love?"

Ask God to help you to act in a way that demonstrates His character to the world around you and expresses your true identity in Christ.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read Colossians 3:1-17

1 So if you have been raised with the Messiah, seek what is above, where the Messiah is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your minds on what is above, not on what is on the earth.

3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with the Messiah in God.

4 When the Messiah, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

5 Therefore, put to death what belongs to your worldly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry.

6 Because of these, God's wrath comes on the disobedient,

7 and you once walked in these things when you were living in them.

8 But now you must also put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices

10 and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your

Creator.

11 In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.

12 Therefore, God's chosen ones, holy and loved, put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,

13 accepting one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive.

14 Above all, put on love—the perfect bond of unity.

15 And let the peace of the Messiah, to which you were also called in one body, control your hearts. Be thankful.

16 Let the message about the Messiah dwell richly among you, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, and singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God.

17 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.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. A number of years ago, there was a Christian song with the lyrics, "If you are too heavenly minded, then you'll be no earthly good."
 - a) Is it possible to be too heavenly minded? Explain your answer.

 - b) In what practical ways can a believer set his mind on what is above?

2. Verse 5 says that greed is idolatry.
 - a) Who or what is idolized?

 - b) How can greed extend beyond money and possessions?

 - c) In what area do you need to let go or at least loosen your grip?

3. In this passage, Paul discusses sexual temptations.
 - a) Is there any connection between what you watch on TV and what is in your heart? Explain.

 - b) How does your relationship with Christ affect your TV, movie, or internet viewing habits?

4. From verses 8 and 9, what, that comes out of your mouth, does Paul says to “put away” or get rid of? What do the following scriptures have to say on the subject?
 - a) James 1:26

 - b) Matthew 15:18

 - c) Proverbs 12:22

 - d) John 8:4

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

In one statement, write what God wants you to KNOW...

In one statement, write how God wants you to FEEL...

In one statement, write what God wants you to DO...

Sermon Notes

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.