

Discover the New Testament – Colossians 3

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Paul provides an understanding that even though we are “in Christ,” we must let the “inner man” gain the ascendancy over the “outer man,” or our “bodies.”

Colossians 3:1-4 – ¹ Since then, you have been raised with Christ, (You) set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² (You) Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden **with Christ in God**. ⁴ When Christ, who **is your life**, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Just because you are a Christian, or “in Christ,” doesn’t mean that walking in holiness, purity, and godly character is automatic.

We must learn to be empowered by our inward man, which is born of God and has been a partaker of divine nature.

Romans 7:22 - I love to do God's will so far as my new nature is concerned or I delight in the law of God according to the inward man or I endorse and delight in the Law of God in my innermost self [with my new nature].

You Put On

Colossians 3:5-14 – ⁵ (You) Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since **you have taken off** your old man with its practices ¹⁰ and have **put on the new man**, which is being **renewed in knowledge** in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here (in the new man) there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves or put on** with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues **put on** love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:15 - 17 – ¹⁵ **Let or permit** the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ **Let or permit** the word of Christ dwell in you **richly** as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Paul teaches the practical, day-to-day application of the “in Christ” life that is empowered by the grace of God.

Colossians 3:18-25 – 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 embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. ²² Slaves or **employees** obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, **work at it with all your heart**, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

Colossians 4:1 – Masters or **employers**, provide your slaves or employees with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Paul teaches about our devotional life and how our lives should be a testimony to those outside of Christ.

Colossians 4:2-6 – ² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:17 - Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord."