

## ▼ "The Clothing of Christ" - Colossians

### ▼ Colossians 3:1-16

"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."

- In Colossians 3, as a whole, we have God's Word calling us to KILL certain sinful, worldly, or fleshly parts of our nature. HOW do we do this? With the Sword of God's Word. We take up the Word by reading it, memorizing it, listening to it and proclaiming it - to each other, and ourselves. (Col 3:16 - The message about Jesus richly dwelling among us) Multiple times in Scripture we see a picture of Jesus Himself with the Sword of the Lord coming out of His

mouth. What does that mean? It is the Word of God - our weapon against the world, our own fleshly desires, and all of the plots of Satan. The Word of God coming out of our mouth is a Sword, sharper than any human made sword.

- Then we see a call in Colossians to not only KILL or Throw off parts of ourselves, but to PUT ON, or EMBRACE Jesus Jesus' traits - this is how we set our minds on things above AND how we are being renewed and remade according to the Image of God, vs. 10. Galatians 5 has almost this same exact construction:

#### ▼ KILL THESE

- "19 Now the works of the flesh (NATURAL IMPULSES) are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I tell you about these things in advance—as I told you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

#### ▼ EMBRACE THESE

- "22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, we must also follow the Spirit. 26 We must not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."
- **NOTE: vs 21 - Paul is repeating himself that the things above will disqualify CHURCH PEOPLE from inheriting the Kingdom of God. PONDER THAT.**
- Consider 1 Corinthians 6:9-10  
"9 Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or anyone practicing homosexuality, 10 no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom."

- ▼ **Provocative Statement:** The Bible treats Factions and Dissensions the same way it treats sexual sin. Can cliques, factions, dissensions and divisions send us to hell? YES! If sexual sins can DISQUALIFY church-goers from inheriting the Kingdom of God, and they can, then also Jealousy, verbal abuse, selfish ambition, DISSENSION, factions, ENVY, hatreds, outbursts of anger, etc.

- These things are just as disqualifying as sexual sin.

- ▼ **Ask yourself this:** Has the church treated the sins of jealousy, dissensions, factions, envy, outbursts of anger, etc, in the same way as we have treated sexual sins like homosexuality, adultery, etc? NO, we have not. We give a pass to some of those, and don't give a pass to the others, but the Bible says all can and will disqualify those who practice them from inheriting God's Kingdom.

- Ponder that. Take a moment of considering.

- ▼ Therefore - what must we do? We don't merely take off the appearance of factions, dissensions, anger, malice, verbal abuse, slander, etc.
  - We put on a new appearance.
  - How must we appear? Remembering that we aren't talking about putting on an appearance, but we are talking about an inner transformation that is evident to those watching...
  - A tree rooted in Jesus produces certain fruits and a tree rooted in the flesh produces certain fruits. If you are rooted in Christ, you will produce these things. We are saved by being rooted in Christ. That said, Colossians calls us to KILL and Embrace. This is a more active command structure than simply bearing fruit. It all comes from our roots, but I've heard people say that all it takes is abiding, and you will bear fruit, etc, and I actually think it is more active than that.
- ▼ We must put on:
  - 1. Heartfelt compassion - splagchnon (spleen) - bowels of mercy/compassion
  - 2. Kindness - chrēstotēs - gentle kindness of God
  - 3. Humility - tapeinophrosynē - low-heartedness, low-mindedness, low-judging of other people. Having a little opinion of yourself
  - 4. Gentleness - mildness/meekness
  - ▼ 5. Patience - makrothymia - endurance, long-suffering, tolerating much before you get worked up
    - Are you easy to rile up? Ask somebody else. A Christian MUST NOT be easy to rile up.
  - ▼ 6. Acceptance of each other - to tolerate, to long-suffer, to handle annoyance/weakness/agitation well without separating or losing your temper
    - Christians do not trivially separate. They do not lose their temper with each other over hardly anything. The idea here is to suffer LONG and quietly with people who distress you.
  - ▼ 7. Forgiveness of each other - charizomai - more accurately means to give grace to each other
    - Grace is undeserved.
  - ▼ 8. Forgiveness like the Lord forgives
    - WE MUST GIVE GRACE TO EACH OTHER LIKE GOD GAVE US.
    - DO you deserve Heaven? Is it a Wonder that Christ has saved you? Did you earn it? We must give that kind of grace to others. We can't make it, but we share it, because it is transforming us.
  - ▼ 9. Above all Love - agape.
    - Agape doesn't really mean God's love exactly, or unconditional love. We are to Agape each other. It means this: affection, good will, love, benevolence, brotherly love. It means

liking. You can't Agape somebody you don't like. Agape means LIKE AND LOVE! It is the NUMBER ONE mark of Christians.

- John 13:35  
"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."
- That you like and love one another. "I love you, but I don't like you." Then, actually, you don't love them either. Does this distress you - good news... Agape is THE NUMBER ONE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT. Not the #1 Discipline.

▼ 10. Peace of the Messiah - rule or be an umpire/referee over your thoughts and actions.

- Why? Because you were called to ONE Body. The peace of Christ must RULE/REF over our actions, or otherwise, we will fracture the Body of Christ. Which has been done, repeatedly, and each time it happens, our light as a witness to Jesus being the son of God is diminished. MASSIVE STAKES HERE.

- 11. Thankfulness.

- THIS IS WHAT A CHRISTIAN MUST LOOK LIKE AND ACT LIKE AND BE LIKE.

▼ CLOSE

- What is the point of all of this? A radiant people, shining the light of God!
- Philippians 2:13-16  
"13 For it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to desire and to work out His good purpose. 14 Do everything without grumbling and arguing, 15 so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world. 16 Hold firmly to the message of life."