

# Colossians 3:10-21

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## Day 1

Putting on the New Man. Read Colossians 3:10-13

1. What is happening to the new self? 3:10 (See Romans 12:2)

- How does 2 Corinthians 4:16 describe the process?
- What is the character of the new self? Ephesians 4:24 (*What kind of purpose and value does that give your life?*)

**FYI:** "Paul describes our former unredeemed life as the old man, and our life as God's child as the new man. The new man has the image of the new creation in Christ, just as the old man bears the image of our fallen nature. The old man is under an old master, Satan, while the new man has a new master, the Spirit of God living within."  
- The Nelson Study Bible (2016)

2. What are ways we obtain this knowledge?

- Colossians 1:9 since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding NIV
- John 8:31-32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." NIV
- Eph. 1:17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. NIV
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. NASU

3. What kinds of barriers are removed by this renewing of the mind? 3:11 (See Galatians 3:28)

- What is the only identification we have? 3:11b

**Food for Thought:** "When we in truth crown Him 'Lord of all', then we are at last, from a practical standpoint, in the right relationship to Him. One in which we can realize to the full what He plans for us in our lives and service, and how rich then our Christian lives and witness can be!"  
- Stuart Allen (157)

"We put off sinful behaviors] "because we have:

- A new self 'which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.'
  - New relationship - 'Here there is no Greek or Jew...but Christ is all and is in all.'
- What motivation to put off the old and put on the new!"  
- R Kent Hughes

4. What three words describe our new identity in Christ? 3:12a *How does that make you feel?*

- How radical is this change? 2 Corinthians 5:17

***Digging Deeper***

What do you learn about being "*chosen*" from Ephesians 1:4-5

5. Because of our identity, list what are we commanded to *put on/clothe ourselves with*? 3:12b

6. What characteristics of God are given in Psalm 103:8-14?

- What did God's compassion cause Him to do? Titus 3:4-6
- What motivated Jesus to minister to people? Matthew 9:35,36

7. How did Jesus describe Himself? Matthew 11:29

***FYI:*** "Behind gentleness is a steel-like strength, for the supreme characteristic of the meek man or woman is that he or she is under perfect control. Gentleness/meekness is strength under control. Numbers 12:3 tells us that Moses was the most 'meek' man on earth, but at the same time Moses was a man who could act decisively...Those wearing the true garment of gentleness-meekness are immensely powerful people, for they are controlled by God."  
- R. Kent Hughes (104)

8. How are we to respond when others offend or trouble us? 3:13a

- What should be our motivation for forgiving others? 3:13b (What does that indicate about the extent we should forgive?)

9. What model did Christ give us?

- Romans 15:2-3 Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME." NAS
- Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. NAS
- John 13:14 "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. NAS

***Digging Deeper***

Why is God willing to be patient and bear with mankind?  
2 Peter 3:9

**Applying the Word:** Think of a time when someone demonstrated one of the Christ-like qualities (listed in 3:12-14) toward you, even when you didn't deserve it. What effect did that have on you?

## Day 2

More Instructions for Believers. Read Colossians 3:14-17

10. What special place and role does **love** have in our behavior and attitude? 3:14 (See Ephesians 4:15,16)
  - Why is it given this place? I Corinthians 13:1-3,8a
  
11. What can motivate us to love even when we are not sure if love will be returned? 1 John 4:9-11,19
  
12. Underline the character or extent of God's love.
  - Exodus 34:6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness NIV
  - Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; NIV
  - John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. NIV
  - Ephesians 3:19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. NIV
  - Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. NIV
  
13. What confidence can we have in God's love for us? Romans 8:39
  
14. How do you think a knowledge and assurance of God's love effects our estimate of ourselves, our treatment of others, or our response to treatment by others?

**FYI:** As we receive Christ's love, as we are filled with amazement at what Christ has done for us, we will be able to give it to each other. Christ's love is an inexhaustible, unfailing source that doesn't depend on other people opinions or behaviors. *"We love because He first loved us."*

15. What place should peace have in our life? 3:15 Why?

**rule** – Strong's NT:1018 *brabeuo*; to arbitrate, i.e. (genitive case) to govern (prevail)

"Let it rule. 'The Greek word means arbitrate. Whenever there is a doubtful issue to be decided, choose the things that make for peace' (Meyer)"  
- David Guzik

16. What peace does Jesus give? John 14:27

**FYI:** "Jesus gives us a special peace which He calls 'my peace.' (John 14:27) He gives His own personal peace. It is not just the peace we experience when there is no conflict. It is a sense of wholeness and well-being, completeness and totality. But it is even more - it is the presence of Christ. His peace and His presence are marvelously associate in both the Old and New Testament (see Numbers 6:24-26)." - R. Kent Hughes (110)

17. What connection do you see between forgiveness (3:13) and love (3:14) and peace?

18. What other attitude is closely linked to peace? 3:15b

- How are peace and thanksgiving linked in Philippians 4:6-7?

19. What do you think it means to have the word of Christ **richly** (*abundantly*) **dwell** (*inhabit; be in, with*) us? 3:16a Cross-ref 1:9

**Digging Deeper**  
Read about David's attitude toward God's word in Psalm 119:97-106.

- What behaviors and attitude should follow? 3:16b (Cross-ref 1:28)

**FYI: Dwell in you richly** "Richness comes when we...meditate upon short passages, memorize others, and then do what they say. It is not just a question of disciplined study. It is a matter of the heart. It is Spirit-filled participation in Christ and His Word. And is it ever rich!"  
- R. Kent Hughes (111)

20. What attitude should we have in all we do and say? 3:17 (See also 1 Corinthians 10:31)

21. Why do you think Paul reminded his readers three times in 3:15-17 to be thankful? How would you explain this attitude as an overflow of His peace and His word and His name? (*Other occurrences of thankfulness/gratitude: 1:3,12; 2:7; 4:2*)

**Applying the Word:** What does doing “all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (i.e. our words and actions reflecting what He would say and do) say about the value of even our most mundane tasks?

## Day 3

### Marriage. Read Colossians 3:18-19

22. After giving general guidelines about relationships, what specific relationships did Paul address? 3:18-21 Why do you think Paul paid special attention to these?
23. God gives us commands for our good and to meet legitimate needs. From the instructions given to wives in Col. 3:18 and Ephesians 5:33b, what would you say were primary needs for a husband? What needs are primary for a wife? 3:19

**Love (Agapao)** “does not denote affection or romantic attachment; it rather denotes caring love, a deliberate attitude of mind that concerns itself with the well-being of the one loved.” (Vaughan)  
 ...Significantly, this puts an obligation upon the **husbands**. In the ancient world – under Jewish, Greek, and Roman customs, all power and privileges belonged to husbands in regard to wives, to fathers in regard to children, and to masters in regard to slaves. There were no complimentary powers or privileges on the part of wives, children, or slaves.”  
 “The equality of men and women before the Lord, of which Paul wrote in Galatians 3:28, has not been retracted: but neither does it mean identity of role or function.” (Wright) - David Guzik  
 “3:18,19 has to do with the relationship between a Christian husband and wife. As such, it has nothing to say about men’s and women’s roles in society, such as the marketplace or politics.” - R Kent Hughes

24. What limit is put on how a woman should submit to her husband? 3:18b (*Note this instruction applies to “your own husband” not all men.*) Who is told to submit in Ephesians 5:21?

**FYI:** Roles for marriage are understood first in the context of **mutual** submission to one another (Eph. 5:21) – **both** the wife and husband are to serve/submit to one another.

Submission implies a voluntary response. It’s a wife’s business to submit/respect her husband, not a husband’s job to reprimand his wife about not submitting. It’s a husband’s job to love his wife, not a wife’s job to reprimand him for not showing her love.

Submit “As is fitting in the Lord”: Godly standards rule. If a husband asks a wife to break a standard set by God she is wrong to go along with it

A husband’s role is giving Christ-like love (see Ephesian’s 5:25-29) not domineering over his wife. The husband is to lead with a loving, sacrificial, servant mindset.

There is no superiority or inferiority (in Christ there is no male or female Galatians 3:28). When we enter into a marriage, we agree to that contract, and God assigns different roles because he has two people to work with now. In order to mesh, we have different, but complimentary roles. (Think of dancing. Both can’t lead.) God tells us the way marriage works best in order to meet the needs of the husband, wife and family.

25. Why do you think Paul included a warning for husbands? 3:19 (Considering a wife's need for love, what does harshness convey?)

**FYI:** "**embittered**" (NIV "**harsh**") – Strong's NT:#4087 "Figuratively of emotions: to embitter; to be or become bitter, ie. to be harsh, angry." - The Complete Word Study Dictionary

"This doesn't mean that a wife will have no input. A wise kingdom husband, in fact, will always value the input of the wife God has given him! But the point here is that the husband has the ultimate responsibility for making decisions under God that affect the well-being of the family.

A kingdom man is not a dictator, ruling his home with a heavy hand and expecting his family to wait on him. Instead, he is a benevolent leader under the authority of God, acting with love and seeking the well-being of his wife and children. The husband's model is Christ, who sacrificially love ...the church - to the point of death (Eph 5:25)" - The Tony Evans Study Bible (1418)

26. To what extent should a husband love and serve his wife? Ephesians 5:25-29 What does this say about domineering versus serving?

- What high honor is the marriage relationship given by this picture it portrays?

**Applying the Word:** *If you are married, pay attention to your interaction with your husband this week. Where do you see your words and actions showing respect? Where do you see them being disrespectful?*

*How do you think a woman should react when her husband is harsh and unloving? What principles from Colossians 3:1-17 (or other Biblical passages) would be helpful?*

## Day 4

Children and Fathers. Read Colossians 3:20-21

27. What reasons are given for a child to obey their parents? 3:20 (Given this command, what would you say are some primary needs for a child?)

- Compare the reasons given in Ephesians 6:1-3. What does this say about the importance for society?

28. How is obedience to parents a good preparation for the future? ( i.e. What can happen if a child never learns to respect authority?)

29. What caution is given to fathers? 3:21 (Cross-ref. Ephesians 6:4) Why do you think the father is singled out for this warning?

**FYI: exasperate** (NIV "embitter") – Strong's #2042 "To stir to anger. To excite, anger, provoke, irritate.  
- The Complete Word Study Dictionary

"The specific sense of the Greek word is to irritate one's children either by nagging or deriding them - putting them down. The parallel in Ephesians 6:4 has the same idea of irritating them through perpetual fault-finding...Discipline is to be given but so is encouragement. Obedience is to be nurtured by love and praise. We must never cause our children to 'lose heart.'"  
- R. Kent Hughes (126)

**lose heart** (NIV "become discouraged") – Strong's NT:120; to be spiritless, i.e. disheartened

"When you correct your children, you want to break their will - their stubbornness - without breaking their spirit. The goal is to lead them to willing obedience and righteousness. Our children need to know that they are significant and important and that we as their parents will love them and not place demands on them that they can never satisfy. Remember, rules without relationship lead to rebellion."  
- The Tony Evans Bible (1418)

"Parents can **provoke** their children by being too harsh, too demanding, too controlling, unforgiving, or just plain angry. This harshness can be expressed through words, through actions, or through non-verbal communication.

In most parenting problems, the parent blames the child. It is easy to do because the problem is usually most evident in the bad behavior in the child. But Paul wisely reminds us that the bad behavior may actually be *provoked* by the parent.

'Parents, and especially fathers, are urged not to irritate their children by being so unreasonable in their demands that their children lose heart and come to think that it is useless trying to please their parents.- (Bruce)

**Lest they become discouraged...**They will not feel the love and the support from their parents like they should, and they will come to believe that the whole world is against them because they feel their parents are against them. This reminds us how important it is to season our parenting with lots of grace." - David Guzik

30. What positive command is added for fathers in Ephesians 6:4b?

- What is said about the merits of discipline and instruction in Proverbs 29:17-18?

***Digging Deeper***

What is said about disobedience in II Timothy 3:1,2?

31. What interesting comments did Paul write to Timothy about his upbringing?

- 1 Timothy 1:5
- 2 Timothy 3:15

## 32. Read through the following scriptures.

- Deuteronomy 6:6-9 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. NIV
- Psalm 78:3-7 what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. 5 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, 6 so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. 7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. NIV
- Joel 1:3 Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation. NIV
- Judges 2:8-12 Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of a hundred and ten...10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. 11 Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. NIV
- ❖ What would you say about the importance of passing on God's truth to the next generation? What do you feel are some of the most effective ways of doing this?

**Applying the Word:** Go back and read through Colossians 3:12-17 with family relationships and the home environment in mind. Is there any command that you feel could help change your relationship with someone in your family? How well do you display these attitudes and behaviors with your own family versus your friends?