

Colossians

Lesson 7 - Colossians 3:17-4:1

We have seen how we are to walk in the newness of life in Christ, and I'm sure we desire to follow Paul's instructions to guide us in what to *put off* and *put on* so far from Chapter 3. However, as we consider these attitudes of heart, too often we reserve them for only part of our lives, the times we are in church or within the body of Christ. In this last section of Chapter 3, Paul applies the same instruction to our walk in this world, and in every aspect of our lives, with the words, "*And whatever you do...*" As you look deeper into the scripture this week, ask the Lord to show you how to walk in Him in every area of your life.

Begin your study with prayer, thanking the Lord for His Word and asking for understanding of it and wisdom in applying it to your life.

Memory Verse – This week's memory verse:

*"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through Him."
Colossians 3:17 NKJV*

Read Colossians 3:17.

Colossians 3:17 ties the first half of Colossians together with the second. It reminds us why we are to walk this way and for whom! This verse brings those attitudes often reserved for church into the rest of our lives, into our interactions and relationships in our homes, at work and in the world. With this in mind, let's look closer...

1. Take time to consider all that is said in this one verse, Colossians 3:17, as you write it below.
2. When Paul says, *whatever* you do..., is there anything not included?
3. "*And whatever you do in word...*" Our words are powerful and lasting, so we need to consider each word that comes out of our mouths. What do the following scriptures remind us about the power of our words?
 - a. Proverbs 12:18
 - b. Proverbs 15:4

c. Proverbs 18:21

d. James 3:5

4. With such power, we surely want to consider our words! Write what you find in the following scriptures that shows what our words should be like.

a. Psalm 19:14

b. Proverbs 16:24

c. Ephesians 4:29

5. Colossians 3:17 continues with, *whatever you do in word or deed...* The saying, actions speak louder than words, is true. What do the scriptures below say about our actions?

a. Matthew 5:16

b. Ephesians 2:10

c. James 3:13

6. The scriptures above have given us a good picture of what our *words and deeds* can do and should look like, but the next phrase in Colossians 3:17 gives the motive and the purpose for all of these. What does it mean to you when you read the words “...*do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...*”?

a. In Acts 21:13, what was Paul willing to do for *the name of the Lord Jesus*?

b. What does Philippians 2:10 say about *the name of Jesus*?

Warren Wiersbe: All that we say and do should be associated with the name of Jesus Christ. By our words and our works, we should glorify His name... We must do and say everything on the authority of His name and for the honor of His name.

7. Complete the phrase that finishes off the verse in Colossians 3:17 below.

...giving _____

8. This is the fifth of six references to thanksgiving in Colossians, so it is clearly important to Paul. Why do you think a thankful heart to God is so important in our walk?

As Christians we bear the name of Jesus. Bearing His name is a great privilege, but it brings with it great responsibility, as ambassadors of Christ or living epistles. Keep all of this in mind as we go to the next few verses.

Read Colossians 3:18-19.

These verses tell us how we are to walk in our marriages. Whether you are married or not, it is good for all of us to know what a godly marriage should look like.

1. The second word in Colossian 3:18 is the word *submit*. In our world today, we seem to have trouble with that word, with submission, but it is an essential part of our walk with God. What do you see in the following scriptures?

a. James 4:7

b. 1 Peter 5:5

Warren Wiersbe says to think of the word *submit* not as slavery, but instead as referring to rank, as in the military. It is necessary for order, not representative of higher or lower value or abilities.

2. With that in mind, what instruction do you find in Colossians 3:18 for wives?

a. Considering the last phrase, *as is fitting in the Lord*, what does Ephesians 5:22-24 add to this?

- b. How would you describe what it means for a wife to *submit to her own husband*?
- 3. What instruction do you find in Colossians 3:19 for husbands?
 - a. What does Ephesians 5:25 and 28 add to this?
 - b. How would you describe what this looks like practically for a husband?
- 4. Remembering the context of these verses in Colossians, look back over Colossians 2:12-3:17. List the virtues or instructions from these verses that would apply for the wife and the husband below.
 - a. wife –
 - b. husband –

Read Colossians 3:20-21.

Paul next applies the instructions for a godly walk to the family.

- 1. What does Colossians 3:20 say to children?
- 2. Do you see anything additional to add from Ephesians 6:1-3?
- 3. What significance do you find in this being included in Exodus 20:12?
- 4. Write the instructions to fathers from Colossians 3:21 below.
 - a. Define provoke.

b. How could this discourage a child?

5. What virtues or instructions from Colossians 2:12-3:17 would apply:

a. to the children?

b. to the fathers?

Read Colossians 3:22-4:1.

This section refers to bondservants, slaves or servants. This was so common in Paul's time that it is said there were 6 million slaves in the Roman Empire. But we are not to ignore this section because the principles can easily apply to the employee/employer relationship in our time.

1. Colossians 3:22 compares three different motives for your actions. Explain what each of these mean to you below.

a. men-pleasers

b. sincerity of heart

c. fearing God

2. What do the following scriptures say about this?

a. Proverbs 29:25

b. Romans 12:2

c. Galatians 1:10

3. What more do you find in the following scriptures about the master/servant relationship?

a. 1 Timothy 6:1-2

b. Titus 2:9

c. 1 Peter 2:18-20

d. Where might Colossians 3:22 fit into your life?

4. Colossians 3:23 can apply to much more than the employee/employer relationship.

a. Write this verse below.

b. Where can you apply this principle?

5. Colossians 3:24-25 gives the true perspective for our motivation.

a. Who does it say we serve?

b. What is our reward?

6. We have seen that there is no partiality with God in Colossians 3:11, but what kind of partiality does Colossians 3:25 refer to?

David Guzik: When a Christian worker does poorly in his job, he should not expect special leniency from his boss, especially if his boss is a Christian. Being a Christian should make us *more* responsible, not *less* responsible.

7. Colossians 4:1 speaks now to the master or employer.

a. What instruction does this verse give for the employer?

b. What more do you find in Ephesians 6:9?

In closing...

This study has covered the many relationships in our lives and each of us fit into one or more of these relationships. It has also addressed the necessity of submission to authority as we submit to the Lord.

1. Is there any area in your thoughts or behavior that you have been convicted of in your study on authority and submission? If so, write it down along with anything you might do to put your desire for obedience into action.

Memory Verse

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NOTES