

LESSON 13: COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

Our Life in Christ

1. Having been raised with Christ, what should you be doing (v. 3) and what will be done for you (v. 4)?
2. Christianity is not a religion like any other. It is a relationship. Through your conversion, you have been granted a relationship with the exalted Christ (v. 1). How are you to vigorously pursue and develop this relationship? How is this activity essential for true Christianity? How is this activity the center and source of all your joy? (See Psalm 84:1-4.) How frequently are you to engage in this activity?
3. As a Christian, can you set your mind on Christ and sin at the same time (v. 2)? When you set your mind on the things of this world, how seriously do you enfeeble your fellowship with Christ? How do you set your heart and mind on things above?
4. The old life is over, the new has begun! This is regeneration in Christ (v. 3). Why is your perfect union with Christ said to be “hidden”? How difficult is it for the man or woman of this world to see the glory of God in the cross? Though you are now “hidden in Christ,” who and what will eventually be revealed (v. 4)? How can this new life and its power be displayed and seen in our world?
5. What do the things we put to death have in common (v. 5)? Why is greed viewed as idolatry?
6. Why does Paul have to urge the believing Colossians to rid themselves of their old ways when they are already new creations (vv. 8-10)? Can you relate to this?
7. Paul lists a number of virtues in verses 12-17. What does it mean to forgive as the Lord has forgiven you (v. 13; see 1:21-22)?
8. How does love bind all the other Christian graces together (v. 14)?
9. What does it mean “to let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” (v. 16; see also Ephesians 5:18-20)?
10. Paul speaks of being thankful and giving thanks three times in verses 15-17. Why is thankfulness so important? Do you live by being thankful to God?
11. What should be included in your every word and deed (v. 17)?

Submission

1. How does the command to “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” in the parallel passage in Ephesians 5:21 set the pattern for the relationship between husband and wife?
2. What is submission that “is fitting to the Lord” (v. 18)? Of what benefit is this to the marriage, to the woman, to the man, to the Lord?
3. What specific responsibilities does the husband have for the wife (v. 19; see also Ephesians 5:25-33)? Of what benefit is this to the marriage, to the woman, to the man, to the Lord? Why are these commands to submit and to love unconditional, and not dependent upon the behavior of the spouse?
4. What is the basic command to children (v. 20; see also Ephesians 6:1)? What factors are to motivate a child’s obedience to his or her parents (v. 21; see also Ephesians 6:2-3)? When do you cease to be a child to your parents?
5. Why are fathers told what they are not to do rather than what they are to do (v. 21; see also Ephesians 6:4)? Consider how being motivated to please the Lord and not discourage others will improve relationships in your family.
6. When and how are slaves to obey their masters (v. 22-25; see also Ephesians 6:5-8)? What attitudes are slaves to have toward their work? What are the characteristics of a godly slave? What encourages a slave (v. 24; see also Ephesians 6:8)? What encourages you?
7. What do verses 22-25 (and Ephesians 6:5-8) teach you about the Christian in the work place? What does verse 4:1 say to the employer, the supervisor (see also Ephesians 6:9)?