

## **ALL IN HIM (Colossians, Part 3)**

It does little good if Christians declare the truth but don't demonstrate it!  
There should be a direct correlation between BELIEF and BEHAVIOR.

We are to have new life NOW! Life is what you are alive to (what makes you "come alive") - and our life is in Christ because IT'S ALL IN HIM!

3:1 – "IF (SINCE) ye then be risen with Christ ..."

3:1 – "right hand" – a figurative expression denoting God's preeminence

**Exodus 15:6** Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

3:2 – HABITUALLY set your affection ...

3:3 – "ye are dead" – **Illustration: RSVP** - "We regret that we cannot attend because we recently died."

**Galatians 2:20-21** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

3:4 – "who is our life" – Jesus is the only reason I live!

3:5 – "mortify" = "put to death"

- fornication – sexual sins (from "porneia" – root word for pornography)
- uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence – DESIRES! (desires lead to deed, and appetites lead to actions)
- covetousness ("an unsatisfied spirit") – this is IDOLATRY ("me first")

**Colossians 3:5 (AMP)** So kill (deadens, deprives of power) the evil desire lurking in your members [those animal impulses and all that is earthly in you that is employed in sin]: sexual vice, impurity, sensual appetites, unholy desires, and all greed and covetousness, for that is idolatry (the deifying of self and other created things instead of God).

3:6 – "cometh" - God's wrath CONTINUALLY falls on those who disobey

Paul names the "sensual sins" in 3:5 but then names the "social sins" in 3:8. We tend to be shocked by the first category but overlook the second!

3:8, 10 – "put off" and "put on" refer to a person changing their clothes – exchanging sin's graveclothes for resurrection robes of righteousness!  
3:8-9 – ANGER is an attitude of resentment, WRATH is a sudden outburst, MALICE is an attitude of ill will toward another, BLASPHEMY is speech that tears down another (you can blaspheme humans, not just God!), FILTHY COMMUNICATION is coarse or fleshly talk, LYING is a misrepresentation of the truth (even if the words are technically true!)

We were FORMED in God's image, then DEFORMED by sin - but we can be TRANSFORMED through God's Spirit, if we are willing to be CONFORMED to His image – we have to PUT ON CHRIST!

3:12-14 – Because we have the privilege of having PUT OFF sin, we have the responsibility to PUT ON ... mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, forbearance, forgiveness, love

3:12 – "bowels of mercies" – the Greeks located the deeper emotions in the intestinal area, while we locate them in the heart!

- MERCY – not giving someone the consequences they deserve
- KINDNESS – giving someone the blessing they do not deserve
- HUMILITY – not thinking poorly of oneself, but thinking of others first
- MEEKNESS – not weakness, but having one's power under control
- LONGSUFFERING – "long temper" or the ability to delay reaction
- FORBEARANCE – to abstain from enforcing one's rights
- FORGIVENESS – to cancel the debt of another who has wronged us

3:14 – LOVE (charity) is the ultimate mark of MATURITY (perfectness)

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (MSG)** Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.

3:15 – Let peace "rule" ("umpire") in your hearts ... and if it is really the peace of God, you will also have peace with God's family ("one body"), and you will have praise on your lips! ("be ye thankful")

3:16 – Let the Word "dwell" ("feel at home") in your life - literally "dwell among you" so that it governs your relationships with each other

3:16 – The Word leads to praise, worship, singing - it is a dangerous thing to separate the praise of God from the Word of God (or vice versa)!

3:17 – WHATEVER you do, do it ALL in His NAME! (It's all in HIM!)  
Faith in Jesus Christ not only changes individuals, it changes HOMES!

3:18 – Paul did not address wives first because they were the lowest, but because the Gospel had given them a newfound equality and freedom!

3:18 – Submission does not refer to inferiority, merely to RANK ("order")

Headship is not dictatorship or lordship – it is "LOVING LEADERSHIP"

3:19 – Paul adds a special caution for husbands – “be not bitter against them” – due to their male temperament and leadership role – a root of bitterness in a home poisons the marriage and gives Satan a foothold

**Hebrews 12:15** Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

3:20 – Children are to obey their parents in ALL things, not just the things they like - a child who doesn't learn to obey his parents is not likely to obey ANY authority.

Often, children do not CREATE problems in the home, they REVEAL problems. Parents who cannot discipline themselves cannot discipline their children. Parents who are not under authority themselves cannot exercise proper loving authority over others.

3:21 – “provoke not” – don't expose them to “prolonged strife” because it will discourage them – guard the atmosphere of your home!

3:22 – Substitute the word "employee" for "servant" (and "employer" for "master") in the Bible and you will have a good modern application!

3:22 – “with eyeservice” – literally “sight labor” – an employee that needs to constantly be watched to make sure they are doing their job

3:22 – “as menpleasers” – literally “man-courting” – an employee that is agreeable to their employer's face, but otherwise behind his back

3:23 – “as unto the Lord” – whatever your job is, doing it to the very best of your ability glorifies God and serves as a testimony to your employer!

**Colossians 3:22-25 (MSG)** Servants, do what you're told by your earthly masters. And don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best. Work from the heart for your real Master, for God, confident that you'll get paid in full when you come into your inheritance. Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you're serving is Christ. The sullen

servant who does shoddy work will be held responsible. Being Christian doesn't cover up bad work.