



**Put on Love!**

Colossians 3:1-17

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Paul the Apostle writing to the Colossians by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit had just finished a very liberating section of scriptures.

In Chapter 2 we learned that once we have put our faith in Jesus Christ we are truly complete in Him.

**In Christ**, we have put off the power of sin and the flesh (v. 11),

**In Christ**, we have received new life (vv. 12, 13),

**In Christ**, we have been forgiven and have been delivered from requirements laid down by human traditions (v. 14),

and

**In Christ**, we have been freed from the powers of spiritual beings (v. 15).

So, as we learned, there is nothing that we, as Christians, need to add to what we have already received by faith in Christ alone.

Praise the Lord!

That mean's we are free in Christ to do whatever we want to do whenever we want to do it!

Is this true???

Well, that's exactly what St. Augustine said back in the fourth century A.D..

His Motto was, "Love God and do as you please."

Now on the surface, that may seem like a license for sin—

"As long as I love God, I can do anything I want, and God's okay with whatever I do."

But is this true???

Augustine seemed to realize that if we, as Christians, truly love God, then we will want to do what pleases Him.

For if we love God, then the Holy Spirit will transform us in such a way that what pleases God will actually be what pleases us.

Jesus, who is God, made this observation. He said,

John 14:15 ¶ "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Similarly, the Apostle John wrote,

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

And finally, the Psalmist wrote,

Psalm 119:93 I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have given me life.

So you see, if we love God, we truly can do what we please and God will be pleased with what we do.

Sound simple enough to you?

Well... if you have ever been in a relationship.

Than you know it isn't that simple is it?

No! Why?

Because...

#1) we really don't know what that person likes or dislikes until we get to know them. Which takes time...

#2) it isn't that easy because no matter how much we love them and may want to please them...

There is something within us that still wants to do what we want to do any time we want to do it, Don't we.

But as we choose to love... we learn to love, and eventually we learn to surrender to that love.

And that is what Paul is going to show us here in Colossians Ch. 3.

What a surrendered life in Christ should look like. Notice... vs1:

Colossians 3:1 ¶ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

If then you were raised with Christ... what does that mean?

As we learned last week... it means we have put our faith in Jesus. We have died to our old sinful selfish life and have been raised in newness of life with Christ.

In other words... we have been Born Again! We are new creations!  
And how did this all come about?  
Well, very simply put.... We fell in love.  
And as you know... when you fall in love... your entire life changes!  
And why do we love God?

1John 4:19 We love Him because He **first loved us**.

He first loved us...

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were **still sinners**, Christ died for us.

So...

Colossians 3:1\* ¶ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

What does it mean to seek those things which are above, where Christ is?

When I fell in love with Amy... I was in California and she was in Japan!  
Believe me... during that time my body was in California... but my heart and mind were in Tokyo!

It was really funny because before we fell in love there weren't very many girls that I thought were cute that were interested in me.

But of course, once I fell in love with Amy what do you think happened?

All of a sudden, there were all these attractive girls, Christians and non-Christians, who starting flirting with me!

Now... Was I tempted? Of course! My flesh loved the attention!  
I'd be lying if I said I wasn't tempted and didn't like the attention.

So what did I do?

I simply did what I always did and still do.....

I thought of Amy!

I was in love!

And when you are truly in love! No temptation can overtake you.

Notice...

1Corinthians 10:13 **No temptation** has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the **temptation** will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

What is that way of escape?

It's Love!

If you love God, if you have been raised with Christ and forgiven of all your sins than. vs.2

Colossians 3:2 **Set** your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Isn't that what the old Hymn sings?

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace."

Colossians 3:3\* For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

What does it mean to be hidden?

When I was a kid we would play hide and seek.

And sometimes I used to hide under the covers.

And once I was completely hidden under the covers what was I able to see?

Not much... if anything “the things of the earth seemed strangely dim”  
But what could I see? The covers!  
And so it is, when our life is hidden with Christ in God.  
The things of earth will grow strangely dim, Under the covering of His glory and grace.”

But what else does this imply?  
When I was completely hidden under the covers, while playing hide and seek.  
What would those who were looking for me see when they looked at me?  
They will see me wrapped under the covers!  
Even so, as Christians our life should be hidden with Christ in God.  
So that when the world looks to us they will see us wrapped in the love of Christ!

But unfortunately... we like to play “peek-a-boo!” Don’t we!  
Every now and then people see that old sinful nature peeking out don’t they.  
And sometimes, it is as if we completely throw the blanket off!

And we are exposed. We are found out.  
And people see us for who we are without the covering of God’s love.

And that, of course, isn’t good!

But understand, Claiming to be a Christian doesn’t mean we are claiming to be perfect.  
No.  
Claiming to be a Christian means we are messed up sinners who need a savior!

Now as much as I love Amy, she can tell you that I mess up, that I sometimes disappoint her,  
that I am not perfect!”  
But... if you ask her, “Amy, does Joseph love you?”  
I really truly believe without any doubt that she would say yes!  
As much as I may mess up... I know that Amy knows that I truly love her.

Now don’t worry, we won’t ask your spouse today if they believe you love them or not.  
We will do that next week as we will be talking about marriage a little bit.  
So that gives you a week to convince each other! J/K!

But what if we could ask God if you loved Him?  
What would He say?  
Although we mess up. Although we are far from perfect. Would He still be convinced that we love Him?  
He is the only one we need to convince you know.  
You don’t have to convince me or anyone else.

But the truth is... if you can convince God.  
There will be no need to convince anyone else.  
The world will know! Because it will show!

Colossians 3:3\* For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Therefore...

Colossians 3:4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in **glory**.

We will appear with Him in what? Glory? In what (let’s hear it!)? GLOOOOOORY!

Wow! How Glorious!!!

He is coming again!!!

“Oh Joseph,” you may be thinking, “Christians have been saying that for over 2000 years already!”  
True!

2Peter 3:8 ¶ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9\* ¶ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

10\* But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

It's all going to burn!

Whether it be today or another 1,000 years we don't know.

All we know is that if the Lord said it, than He meant it, and it will be done.

But on a personal note... how much time do you think you have?

Seriously? We are not promised another second.

Colossians 3:5 ¶ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Last week we looked at 2 Corinthians 10:5 and saw how we are to allow the Word of God to cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

Well, here is a short list of some of those things that world says are ok!

But, as you can see, the Word God is saying no way!

### **Fornication, uncleanness, passion and evil desire:**

Each of these terms refer to sexual sins.

As children of God, as Christians, we are not to yield to or entertain these impulses, thoughts, or desires any longer.

Paul says we are to put them to death and not allow them to master over us any longer.

1Corinthians 6:18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

1Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are **not your own**?

1Corinthians 6: 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Colossians 3:5 ¶ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Now last one,  
covetousness, which is idolatry.

This one is very interesting because we often think of idolatry as praying to carved statues. But anything that we covet or desire more than God, will become our God and that is idolatry.

Don't be deceived!

Colossians 3:6\* Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,  
Colossians 3:7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

Colossians 3:8 ¶ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Colossians 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you **have put off** the old man with his deeds,

**Put off** the old man with his evil deeds that were just listed... How are we to do that?

If I offered someone 1,000 yen to take off their jacket what do you think they would do?

Do you think they would sit there scratching their head thinking to themselves...

"oh man, I could really use that Sen Yen. But oh... I just don't know how to take off my jacket.

I really don't think I can. I am so attached to it. And I have been wearing it for so long! Oh, what to do, what to do?"

If someone really wanted the money what do you think they would do?

They would take it off!

So the question isn't how to put off the old man.  
The question is do you want to put off the old man?

If you do than you will! That's it!  
It's a choice we make every single day?

**Colossians 3:10** and have **put on** the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Once we put off the old man we are to put on the new man!

How are we to put on the new man?  
Notice... The new man is **renewed in knowledge**, he is hungry to know what *God* says in His Word.

Psalms 1:1 ¶ Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Romans 12:2 And **do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

We are to put on the new man by the renewing of our mind through the knowledge of God.

Colossians 3:11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

The new man is part of the family of God, which favors no race, nationality, class, culture or ethnicity because in this new family, **Christ is all and in all**.

Colossians 3:12 ¶ Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on** tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

It is very easy to look at these things and think...

Impossible!

There is just no way I can do these things!

And you are exactly right!

Jesus said,

Mark 10:27b "With men *it is* impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

God's commandments are God's enablements.

God will never command us to do anything that He Himself will not enable you to do!

And so, Paul sums it all up for us here in one verse.

Colossians 3:14 But above all these things put on (what?) love, which is the bond of perfection.

Put on Love!

We are not talking about rabu-rabu or any other flippant use of the word!

No!

The word here in the original greek language is agape.

It represents the unconditional, self-sacrificing, love of God.

God's **Love** is the summary of all the things described in this passage. Because Love perfectly fulfills what God requires of us in every relationship, in every circumstance, in any situation.

And Paul is saying to simply put on, and give to others, what He has given us so freely.

His love!

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Have you ever asked someone for advice about a big decision you had to make?  
Only to have that person say,  
“what is your heart telling you?”

That is the WORST ADVICE IN THE WORLD!  
Why?

Because the Bible declares?

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

It isn't about “what is your heart telling you?”  
No!  
“what is God telling you?”

Colossians 3: 15 **And let the peace of God rule in your hearts**, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

This word Rule in the original Greek language means just that... to Rule.

1018 brabeuw brabeuo {brab-yoo'-o}  
AV - rule 1; 1  
1) to be an umpire  
2) to decide, determine  
3) to direct, control, rule

And Paul is exhorting us to let the peace of God rule in our hearts.  
Let Him be the umpire!  
Let Him decide!  
Let Him direct, control, and rule our hearts!

Like an Umpire at a baseball game....

When that feeling comes sliding into the home plate of your heart....

We are to let God make the call. Safe! or Out!

That's it! There is no in-between!  
It's either safe or out!  
It's either fair or foul!

According to the rule book!  
The Word of God!  
Not the word of Joseph or your best friend or some professional somebody.  
No... the Word of God.  
Notice.... as Paul continues...

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Colossians 3:17 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.