

Jesus' Life (and teaching) in Your Life"

Colossians 3:1-17

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If Christian faith & life (see Colossian 2) is not 1st of all about

- a. Specific religious practices (Except Baptism & LS)
- b. Special experiences
- c. Trying to avoid contamination

But rather, about staying connected to Christ

- Are there any moral imperatives (do's and don'ts)
- OR -- Is it just "stay close to Jesus"?

Yes – there are! Because, as with computers(!)
"just staying connected" is not always easy!

As human beings

1. we have different personalities
 2. we live in a world where there are "powers"
 - i. The powers may not be as strong as Christ,
 - ii. But they are powerful! And have every intention of throwing us off course
- Think Jesus and Temptation (Luke 4:1-13)
 - Think Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)
 - Think Paul and the "Armor of God" (Ephesians 6:10-18)

We need multiple ways of thinking to help us stay "connected"

1. DEATH & RESURRECTION (3:1-4)

A. RESURRECTION

a. spiritually – you must see yourself

- i. as already "above"
- ii. fully in heaven now, welcomed in the presence of God
- iii. but still going to be . . .

b. morally you must

- i. Seek this "above" world
- ii. Set your minds on it
(Lord's Prayer "Thy kingdom come on earth as in heaven" - and begin with me!)

B. DEATH (3:5-9)

There must be a Moral "putting to death" . . .

1. fornication,
2. impurity,
3. passion,
4. evil desire,
5. and greed (which is idolatry).
6. anger,
7. wrath,
8. malice,
9. slander,
10. and abusive language from your mouth.
11. ⁹Do not lie to one another,

Why these particular human flaws/sins to "put to death"?

The Key: "The word of Christ" that Paul mentions at the end of the chapter . . .

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;

In all wisdom teach and admonish one another; [singing] psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, **do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him**

2. Where in the Teaching of Jesus do we find parallels with this list?
 - Jesus in Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5)
 - Jesus on the "Ten Commandments"

Remember: The Gospels almost certainly have not been written down yet – at least in our form . . . BUT, the stories would be memorized as part of the oral tradition "passed on."

Matt.5.21 C#6

"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.'

22 But I say to you that if you are **angry** with a brother or sister,

you will be liable to judgment;

and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; (abusive language) and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire.

Matt.5.27 C#7

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' **28** But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

31“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of **unchastity (porneia – sex outside of marriage)**, causes her to commit adultery;

Matt.5.33,37,43-44 C# 9(False witness, truth)

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘**You shall not swear falsely**, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ 37Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one. 43“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall **love** your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44But I say to you, **Love** your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Let’s look at the lists again

Sexuality -- Matthew 5:27-31

- fornication, (porneia); impurity, passion, evil desire, (lust)

Greed & Idolatry – Mathew 5:19-21, 24

- and greed (which is idolatry).

The Inner Life, the Tongue and “Murder” Matthew 5:21-22, 33-37

- anger, wrath, malice,
- slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another (Col. 3:9)

And even Paul’s insertion

“On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. takes us back to Jesus’ words in 5.22

*But I say to you that if you are **angry** with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you **insult** a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; (abusivelanguage) and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire.*

Paul brings the Colossians back “the word of Christ” in Jesus’ teaching

And that’s one way in which we stay close to him . . . connected to him . . .

Remember Jesus’ teaching -- He was concerned about

1. how we use our bodies – to whom we give ourselves
2. not just our outside life, but our inner life
3. habits that break relationships
 - violently (anger, rage)
 - or subtly (lies)
4. And he believed in judgment!

So that’s the “-ve” = The Putting to DEATH

Following the “+ve” = The Visualizing Yourself in HEAVEN

THEN PAUL CHANGES THE METAPHOR

1. From Death/Rsurrection
2. To Clothing: Old & New

Your are to live a new life as a pesron who has “Changed Clothes”

- taking off *the old*
- putting on *the new*

2. WHY THIS “CLOTHING” ANALOGY?

1. Circumcision . . . (last time)

The “false teachers at Colossae say that circumcision is needed

- To be a true descendant of Abraham (Genesis 17:10-14)
- To be a “truly Biblical Christian”
- To be “really-spiritual”

Paul: the only “stripping off” is moral

- not literal (Col. 2:11)
- not a matter of severe spiritual practices (Col. 2:16-17, 21)

2. The Right Clothes for God’s Presence

People invited into the presence of God have to be dressed right!

- The people at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:10-14)
- The priesthood and the garments of the priests (Exodus 28, Leviticus 16:1-5)

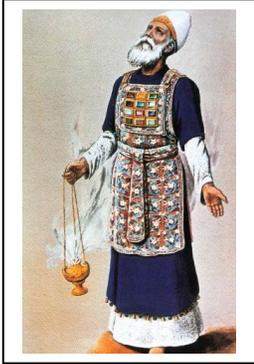
Exodus 19:10-14

When Moses told the words of the people to the LORD, the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. . . So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people; and they washed their garments.

In temple/tabernacle . . . Exodus 28 + Leviticus 16

Leviticus 16:2-5

2 The Lord said to Moses: Tell your brother Aaron not to come just at any time into the sanctuary inside the curtain before the mercy seat that is upon the ark, or he will die; for I appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat. 3 Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. 4 **He shall put on the holy linen tunic, and shall have the linen undergarments next to his body, fasten the linen sash, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy vestments. . . .**



.. you've got to have the right clothes.
But what are the clothes WE are to wear? ..
According to Paul in Colossians 3 . . .

¹² Clothe yourselves, then

-- As God's chosen ones,
-- holy and beloved,

- with compassion,
- kindness,
- humility,
- meekness,
- and patience.

¹³ Bear with one another And forgive each other;
if anyone has a complaint against another

just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

- ¹⁴ Above all, [clothe yourselves] with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
- ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Sounds awfully like: Sermon on the Mount again

-- esp. . . the beatitudes . . . (Matthew 5:1-12)

- Blessed are the Peacemakers
- Blessed are the Poor in Spirit
- Blessed are the Meek
- Blessed are the merciful

.. All bound together with Jesus' call (Matthew 5:43-48)

- To love -- even our enemies . .

Reconciliation / Healed relationships is what God (Jesus!) wants

--see Matthew 5:23-25

23 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison.

- Jesus wants Not only inner holiness
- but restoration of broken relationships . . NOW . . not later

And this becomes clear . . .in Colossians 3:9-11

⁹(Do not lie to one another)

seeing that you have stripped off the old self (person/man) with its practices

¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self,

which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.

¹¹In that renewal (image) there is no longer

- Greek and Jew,
- circumcised and uncircumcised,
- barbarian, Scythian,
- slave and free;

but Christ is all and in all.

- In Other Words . . all kinds of human distinctions are being
- "minimized" by Christ . . not obliterated!!
- God is not boring – human distinctions add spice to life . .

BUT if they lead to division, or become absolute or paramount . . then we are opposing God . .

IN Gal. 3:28 – includes male and female

HERE

- Greek & Jew . . racial division
- Circumcision & uncircumcision . . religious division
- Barabraian, Scythian . . cultured, uncultured
- Slave & Free . . economic, class

What else?

- Republican & Democrat?
- Black & White?
- Mask & No Mask?
- Climate Change Believers & Unbelievers?

This is a renewal,

- Not only in character
- But in how we view others

This is a "seed": Paul goes on to talk about slaves, but does not mention freeing them . .

Our first responsibility as Christians is to live this out in the church

And only then -- society as a whole

CONCLUSION:

³¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;
In all wisdom teach and admonish one another;
[singing] psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.

¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.