

CP - 8/21/22

## Colossians 3:1-17 - "Between the Already and Not Yet"

### 1. The Already (3:1-3)

- Raised with Christ (v. 1)
- Died with Christ (v. 3, Romans 6)
- Life hidden with Christ (v. 3)
- Christ is seated at the right hand of God. (v. 1)
  - This is what makes these others possible.
  - A finished work

### 2. The Not Yet (3:4)

- Christ will appear (v. 4)
- We will appear with him in glory. (v. 4)
- 1 John 3:1-3

### 3. The In-Between (3:5-17)

*\*The journey between the already and not yet is through a deeply fallen world that does not operate the way that God intended.*

*\*It's me still struggling with the remaining presence of sin.*

- Seek the things that are above (v. 1)
- Set your mind on things above, not on things that are on earth. (v. 2)

**\*\*\*But how do I do that? 3:5-17 fleshes this out both negatively and positively.**

**1. 3:5-9 is the "put them to death" imperative.**

**2. 3:12-14 is the "put on" imperative.**

**3. 3:15-17 is how to put it on.**

#### 1. Recognize that sin still remains in you.

- Put to death therefore what is earthly "in" you.
  - I thought I had died to these things.
  - Things are still at work in our members.
  - Here is the problem: we are often blind to our own tendencies.
    - v. 11 - All of us struggle with this.
    - v. 10 is the how.

#### 2. Let the Word of God transform the way you think about sin.

- The new self is being renewed in knowledge to its Creator.
- Commit to God's Word
- Romans 12:12 - God transforms the way we think.
  - When the way we think about these things listed changes, we will be more prone to put them to death.
- But we are often blind to our own tendencies. We can see them in everyone else. This is why we need others to help us see them. Even though we have access to these things, we must make a decision to "put them on."

### **3. Remember whose you are.**

- First, notice what Paul calls the church
  - “God’s chosen ones”
  - “holy”
  - “beloved”
- You are no longer your own...
  - This is our identity. It fuels our activity
- Notice the stark contrast between the previous list and this one
  - kindness, compassionate hearts, humility, meekness, and patience
  - bearing with one another
  - forgiving one another
- This is much harder, isn’t it?
  - put on love

### **4. Commit to the Word of God and the People of God**

- Peace of Christ ruling your heart
- Be thankful
- Let the word of Christ dwell in you.
- Teaching and admonishing one another
  - Not talking about the preacher.
  - Talking about the beloved teaching and admonishing one another
  - Helping one another see our blind spots.
- Do all in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father.
- Do everything for His glory.

#### **Application:**

***We exist for God’s glory by committing ourselves to God’s Truth, God’s People, and God’s Mission.***

\*God’s Truth - transforms our thinking and our hearts

\*God’s People - people in place, people in places

- Scripture clearly teaches that my walk with God is a community project.
- Helps us see our blind spots
- We need hands on our lives.
- As long as sin is still present, there will be pockets of blindness.
- We have a delusion that we know ourselves better than anyone, but often times we can’t accurately view ourselves.
- We need people that help us see ourselves with biblical accuracy.
- Being a people in place is beautiful and great, but we need to be people in places because that is where we are most seen, heard, and admonished.
  - It’s personal.

\*God’s Mission - put these things on