

## Repeated Words, Themes, and Ideas

1. Oneness with Jesus/New Man/Body of Christ, since we are now one with Jesus and He's seated in heaven at God's right hand, we should see life through His mind and therefore seek and think of godly things not earthly things, 3:1-2. The reason we should see life through Jesus' mind is that our old life is dead; our new life is hidden with Jesus in God, 3:3. Our oneness with Jesus is so complete that He is our life, thus, when He returns and appears in glory, we will appear with Him in glory, 3:4. We are not to lie to each other because we have taken off the Old man and his sinful ways and have put on the New man who is made new according to Jesus' image and not according to man's racial, religious, social, or economic standards. The only thing that matters in the new man is our complete oneness with Jesus; He is all of us and in all of us, 3:9-11. Because we are God's elect, holy and beloved we need to be clothed with the utmost care and concern for one another: we must be kind, humble, meek, bear and forgive each other as Christ forgave us, and above all love one another. We must let Jesus' Word dwell abundantly in us so that we can teach and admonish each other even with the worship songs we sing to the Lord. Whatever we do, in word or deed, we must do it all in the name of our Lord Jesus with gratitude towards God our Father, 3:12-17. Our oneness with Jesus should cause every relationship we're in to be Christ-like: wives should submit to their husbands, husbands should love their wives instead of being bitter towards them, children should obey their parents, and parents must not provoke their children to bitterness or resentment, slaves should obey their masters in everything and if their masters do not reward them properly for their work, slaves must not worry because Jesus will reward them in the end because He's ultimately their Master. Finally, masters should treat their slaves with justice and fairness knowing that they too have a Master in heaven, 3:18-4:1 (other places this appears: 1:4-8, 9-12, 13, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29; 2:2, 5, 6-7, 9-10, 11-13, 19, 20).
2. Jesus Christ, since we've been united together-with Jesus (which means that we are seated where He is), we should seek godly things because that's where He is, sitting at God's right hand, 3:1. The reason we should be thinking godly things and not earthly things is because our old self is dead and our new self is hidden with Christ in God, 3:2-3. When Christ, who is our new life, appears, we will also appear with Him in glory, 3:4. We have put on the New Man who is continually made new according to Jesus' image not man's racial, religious, social, or economic standards; what defines the New Man is Jesus: He is all of us and in all of us, 3:10-11. We must forgive each other the way Jesus forgave us, 3:13. God's peace must rule our hearts; this is the unity that we were called to in Jesus' Body, 3:15. Christ's Word must dwell in us abundantly in all wisdom so that we'll be able to teach and admonish each other even with the worship songs we sing to the Lord, 3:16. No matter what we do in word or deed, we must do it all in the name of our Lord Jesus, as we thank God our Father through Him, 3:17. The proper conduct of wives who are united with Jesus is submission to their husbands, 3:18. The proper conduct of children who are united with Jesus is obedience to their parents in all things, 3:20. The proper conduct of slaves is to put their whole being behind everything they do as they would for the Lord instead of men, 3:23. Slaves must realize that their Master is actually Jesus Christ; He's the One who will ultimately reward their work, 3:24. The proper conduct of masters is to treat their slaves with justice and fairness because they too have a Master in heaven, 4:1 (other places this appears: 1:1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21-22, 24, 28; 2:2, 3, 5, 6-7, 8, 9, 10, 11-13, 14-15, 16-17, 18-19, 20).

3. God, Christ is now sitting at God's right hand, 3:1. Our old self is dead, our new self is hidden with Christ in God, 3:3. Because of their sins, God's wrath is upon the sons of disobedience, 3:6. Because we are God's elect, holy and beloved, we must clothe ourselves with tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness and longsuffering, 3:12. We must let God's peace rule our hearts; this is the unity that we are called to as part of Christ's Body, 3:15. Everything we do in Jesus' name, in word or deed, must be done with an attitude of gratitude towards God our Father, 3:17. Slaves must obey their human masters in all things, not with pretense but sincerely because of their utter reverence for God, 3:22. (other places this appears: 1:1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 19, 25, 27; 2:1-2, 9, 12, 19).
4. Mind, we're supposed to set our minds on heavenly things not earthly things, 3:2 (other places this appears: 1:21; 2:18).
5. Oneness with Satan's Darkness/World/Old Man, if we're one with Jesus and wherever He goes we go, then we're supposed to think and do what He thinks and does not what the world thinks and does, 3:1-2. If our life is so thoroughly hidden with Christ that when He appears we'll appear with Him in glory, then we should not let our old sinful earthly life revive; we should put it to death, 3:3-5. Those who live in the sins of the world are the target of God's wrath and we used to walk and live in the same sins, 3:6-7. Since we have cut ties with the world and its sinful ways, i.e., since we have put off the old man with his deeds, we must not talk to each other in any sinful ways; we must put away all these things, 3:8-9. (other places this appears: 1:13, 21; 2:8, 11-13, 16-17, 18, 20-23).
6. Jesus' wisdom/philosophy vs. Satan's worldly wisdom/philosophy, since we have been resurrected with Christ and our life is thoroughly united with His, we must not live according to Satan's worldly philosophy which results in sinful living and God's wrath. That was our old sinful way of life; we must not to let that way of life revive. We should live the resurrection life thoroughly and completely because we're wearing the resurrected Christ. Therefore, as God's elect and beloved, we should show the utmost care and concern for each other; everything we do must be done in Jesus' name. This means that wives should submit to their husbands, husbands should love their wives and not be bitter toward them, children should obey their parents, parents shouldn't do anything to discourage their children, slaves should put their heart and soul into everything they do for their masters because Jesus is actually their Master, and masters should treat their slaves justly and fairly because Jesus is their Master too, 3:1-4:1 (other places this appears: 2:3-4, 6-7, 8, 10, 11-13, 14, 16-18, 18-19, 20-23).
7. Sins / Trespasses, we must put to death all those sinful ways that want to come back to life in us: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry, 3:5. It is because of all these sins that the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience, in fact, we ourselves used to walk and live among these sins, 3:6-7. Like a bad garment we must put off every sin of the mouth: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, and filthy language, 3:8. We must not lie to one another because we have taken off the old man with his deeds, 3:9 (other places this appears: 1:14; 2:11, 13, 20-23).

8. Putting Off/On, we must put off every sinful way of talking to each other: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, and filthy language, 3:8. We must not lie to each other since we have put off the old man with his deeds and have put on the new man, who is renewed according to Jesus' image, where there are no racial, religious, social, cultural, or economic distinctions. The only thing that matters is our life in Christ, our complete identification with Him, 3:9-11. Since we are God's elect, holy and beloved, we must live accordingly. We must put on every caring characteristic like mercy, longsuffering, forgiveness, and love so that we can remain united and teach and admonish each other, so that everything we do will be done in Jesus' name and with a grateful heart toward God our Father, 3:12-17. Putting on the utmost care and concern for each other means that wives submit to their husbands, husbands love their wives and aren't bitter toward them, children obey their parents, parents don't do anything which cause bitterness and resentment in their children, slaves put their heart and soul into whatever they do for their masters because Jesus is ultimately their Master, and masters treat their slaves justly and fairly because Jesus is their Master too, 3:18-4:1 (other places this appears: 1:13; 2:11, 11-13).

### **Lessons Learned About God, Life, and Man**

1. Our oneness with Jesus is total: we were resurrected *together-with* Him, we're seated *together-with* Him, our life is hidden with Him in God, and when Jesus returns and appears we'll appear with Him in glory, 3:1-4. What should this look like in our daily lives? How should it affect how we treat our friends and enemies? How should this affect how we treat the less fortunate? How should this affect how we respond to those who ask for our help, but helping them will cost us dearly?
2. Precisely because we are forever united with Jesus—He is in us and we are in Him—we're supposed to seek the godly things He seeks and think the godly things He thinks, 3:1-2. How should this impact our desires and thought life? How should this affect how we pursue a career? How should this affect how we pursue happiness? How should this affect how we respond to heartache and disappointment?
3. The fact that we're one with Jesus means that we're not supposed to let our old sinful ways come back to life. That's our old life; that's where we used to live and walk, 3:5, 7. This means that everything we do now is supposed to be different: if we were vindictive, materialistic, addicted, short tempered, a penny-pincher, afraid of dying, etc., we're not supposed to be those things anymore. According to Colossians, how does the Lord free us from the sinful ways and habits we used to live in? How did He free the Colossians? Do you know who you are and how to live that new identity...has someone shown you?
4. God's wrath comes to those who sin, 3:6. How do we reconcile this with the fact that Colossians says that God is a loving God, (1:13-14, 21-22)? Where does God's wrath happen, which kingdom? When we sin, which kingdom are we living in and whose side are we on?
5. Because we're in essence wearing Jesus and our mouth is supposed to be one with His, we should not speak in sinful ways, that kind of speech should not come out of our mouth, 3:8. How should this affect the way I speak to my boss whom I hate? How should this affect how I speak to those I disagree with?