

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?

Colossians Chapter 3

6. Additionally, we're not supposed to lie to each other because we're no longer wearing our old, sinful identity which was shaped by the world; we're now wearing the new man, Christ's Body. And His Body is supposed to be shaped by Jesus not the sinful ways of the world, 3:9-10. In light of this, how should culture shape us, e.g., the music, movies, and politics of our day?
7. We've all been clothed with the new man, the Body of Christ, but we don't get to bring our racial, religious, social, cultural, or economic baggage with us. Whatever identity we had in connection to any of these, this is now gone. The key thing is that Christ defines who we are; our identity comes from His Body because Christ is all of us and in all of us, 3:11. How should this affect how we see our past?
8. Since we're wearing Christ, as God's elect who are holy and beloved, we should clothe ourselves with the utmost care and concern for each other, e.g., we should forgive each other as Christ forgave us, precisely because we're wearing Him, 3:12-13. How does this apply to someone who cuts you off while you're driving down the road? How does this apply to someone who insults you? How does this apply to someone who doesn't measure up to your standards?
9. Love is supposed to be the driving force behind everything we do, the type of love that unifies us, 3:14. How should this reveal itself when we've lost our patience with someone, when someone's let us down, or they refuse to take our advice? What's the loving thing to do when your friend disrespects her husband in front of you? What's the loving thing to do when you see a husband be abusive to his wife? How should we respond to those who only come to church for the food?
10. God wants His family unified, 3:15. How should this affect our unwillingness to talk to someone who's offended us? How should we respond to someone we don't like, or someone who has different political views than we do?
11. We should always be grateful, 3:15, 17. How should we respond when we still can't get the new car we've been dreaming about or move into the neighborhood we always wanted? What should our attitude be when we haven't found the job we want....and why?
12. What Jesus says about life should be a permanent part of our thinking so that we'll be able to show each other how to live life properly and successfully, from the lowest low, to the highest high, 3:16. How should this affect how I respond to a friend who's making wrong life decisions? How should this affect how I study God's Word, what should be my goal when I study?
13. Everything we do in life, from what we think, to what we say, to what we do, is supposed to be done with Jesus in mind, that is, in His name, that is, as if He personally sent us because He did, 3:17. What does it mean to do something in someone else's name? How careful, attentive, and driven are we when we do something for a super-VIP?
14. Because you're a permanent part of Jesus—He's in you and you're in Him—He wants control over every relationship you have, your relationships at work and at home, 3:18-4:1. How should this affect the way wives treat their husbands, husbands treat their wives, parents treat their children, children treat their parents, employees treat employers and vice versa? If we're now clothed with Christ, why don't we live this way, why do we fail more often than we succeed?
15. You're supposed to put your heart and soul into your work regardless of how your boss or company treats you, 3:22-24. How should this affect your performance when you're working for an unreasonable boss/company?