

Colossians 3 Summarized

Sentences

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.

3:2-3, set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

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

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

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

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

3:9-11, do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

3:12-13, therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 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*.

3:14, but above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

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

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.

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.

3:18-4:1, wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality. Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Paragraphs

3:1-4, since we have been glued to Jesus [i.e., in light of what Paul has said from the beginning, that we're one with Jesus—He's in us and we're in Him—and should therefore live godly lives guided by His wisdom instead of ungodly lives guided by Satan's philosophy] we should seek and think heavenly things not earthly things because that's where we are, i.e., we are seated together-with Jesus in heaven, in fact, we're so one with Him that (1) He's our life, (2) our life is hidden with Christ in God, and (3) when He returns in glory, so will we.

3:5-11, [Since we're so one with Jesus that we're supposed to think like Him] we must kill our former sinful self, things like fornication and evil desires. These are the things that bring God's wrath, in fact, that's where we used to live. We must no longer speak in the wicked ways we used to including lying to each other because we've taken that wicked man and his sinful ways off. We've now put on the New Man, the one who's shaped by Jesus because He created him. We don't bring a single trace of our former selves into the New Man, not even our race because the New Man is Christ, i.e., He's all of us and in all of us.

3:12-17, [Since we're so one with Jesus that we're not supposed to see our old selves at all] as God's holy and beloved, we need to live up to it, i.e., we must cloth ourselves with the utmost care and concern for one another, things like tender mercies, longsuffering, forgiveness, and above all else love. God's peace should rule our hearts so that it unifies us. What Christ says about every facet of life should dwell deep within us so that we can show each other how to truly live, including correction when necessary. In fact, everything we say and do must be done as if Jesus personally sent us to do it. All of this would lead us to thank God the Father through Him.

3:18-4:1, [Since we're so one with Jesus our oneness should manifest itself in all our relationships, i.e.,] wives must submit to their husbands, husbands must love their wives and not be bitter toward them, children must obey their parents in everything, parents must not provoke their children lest they discourage them, slaves must obey their human masters putting their heart and soul into everything they do because they're actually working for Jesus who will ultimately reward them and if they misbehave, then Jesus will punish them without partiality, and masters must treat their slaves justly and fairly because Jesus is their boss too. This is the behavior that's expected of everyone who is one with Jesus, i.e., they must live like Jesus and sacrifice their lives for each other.

Whole Chapter

Since we're now so one with Jesus that wherever He is we are—including heaven, in God, or His Second Coming—we're supposed to think and do as He does. Therefore, we must not behave like our old sinful selves, fornicating, blaspheming, and lying. That's not who we are anymore; we've taken that self off and have put on a New Man who was created by Christ where no trace of our old self belongs because the New Man is Christ: He's all of us and in all of us. Instead, (1) we must cloth our new self with the utmost care and concern for others, (2) God's peace should rule us, and (3) everything Jesus said about life should be our heart's desire so that we can show each other how to live, including correcting each other when necessary. In fact, everything we say and do must be done as if Jesus personally sent us to do it. That is, Jesus' attitude and view of life should be present in all our relationships, whether family, friends, or work. All this will lead us to thank God the Father through Him.