

Colossians: What's the Main Point?

These are the top 10 Words, Themes, and Ideas in Colossians and 9 others related to them. The red number represents the number of times the word, theme, or idea appears in the letter:

1. Jesus Christ, 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; 3:1, 2-3, 4, 10-11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24, 4:1; 4:3, 7, 17. **44**
 2. Oneness with Jesus/New Man/Body of Christ, 1:4-8, 9-12, 13, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29; 2:2, 5, 6-7, 9-10, 11-13, 19, 20; 3:1-2, 3, 4, 9-11, 12-17, 18-4:1; 4:7-9, 7-15. **23**
 3. God, 1:1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 19, 25, 27; 2:1-2, 9, 12, 19; 3:1, 3, 6, 12, 15, 17, 22; 4:3. **22**
 4. Walking daily with the Lord / "in Christ" / "in Him", 1:2, 4, 6, 9-10, 22-23, 27, 28; 2:5, 6-7, 10, 11-13, 16-18, 19, 20; 4:5, 7. **16**
 5. Sacrificing your life for others, 1:4, 7, 14, 20, 21-22, 24, 28-29; 2:1-2, 11-15, 20; 4:7-14, 2-15. **12**
 6. Oneness with Satan's Darkness/World/Old Man, 1:13, 21; 2:8, 11-13, 16-17, 18, 20-23; 3:1-2, 3-5, 6-7, 8-9. **11**
 7. Fruit / Fruitful, 1:4, 6, 10, 23, 27-28; 2:6-7, 8, 9-10, 18-19, 20-23. **10**
 8. God gives you the strength to walk with Him, 1:4, 6, 11, 29; 2:3, 6-7, 9-10, 11-15, 19, 20-23. **10**
 9. Jesus' wisdom / philosophy vs. Satan's worldly wisdom / philosophy, 2:3-4, 6-7, 8, 10, 11-13, 14, 16-18, 18-19, 20-23; 3:1-4:1. **10**
 10. Wisdom / Knowledge / Understanding, 1:9-10, 28; 2:2, 3, 8-10, 14, 16-18, 20-23; 4:5. **9**
- Gospel, 1:5, 22-23, 26-27, 28; 2:2-23; 4:3, 4, 6. **8**
Heard / Learned, 1:3-4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 22-23; 2:6-7. **7**
Putting Off/On, 1:13; 2:11, 11-13; 3:8, 9-11, 12-17, 3:18-4:1. **7**
Slave / Bond-servant, 1:7; 3:11, 22; 4:1, 7, 12. **6**
Minister, 1:7, 23, 25; 4:7. **4**
Circumcised / Putting Off/On, 1:13; 2:11, 11-13. **3**
Chains / Prisoner, 4:3, 10, 18. **3**
Perfect / Complete, 1:28; 2:10; 4:12. **3**
Mystery, 1:26-27; 2:2; 4:3. **3**

In light of this, what's the main point of Colossians? It's possible to live and love exactly like Jesus. That is, every Christian has been given a new identity; they've been clothed with Jesus Christ. This means that they should no longer live by the satanic and sinful ways of the world. Instead, they should live according to Jesus, i.e., they should think, speak, and act like Him.

The main point of Colossians, chapter by chapter:

Chapter 1, Paul is ecstatic that from the moment the Colossians were introduced to Jesus their lives began to look like His: they lived and loved like Him. So he asks God to give them more understanding of Jesus so that their walk would look even more like the God and Ruler of all creation who bled and died for them in order to make them part of Himself and transfer them from a world of darkness into His Kingdom. This is what Paul works so hard for: to see everyone who has Christ dwelling inside them live their lives “in Him,” i.e., exactly like Jesus.

Chapter 2, Paul does not want the Colossians to be taken in by the world’s philosophy which is driven by Satan’s demonic powers. This philosophy is not simply utterly useless; it wants to rob them. However, Jesus’ death has disarmed Satan’s sinful philosophy and clothed the Colossians with Jesus. So whatever wisdom they need, they can find it all in Christ. Therefore, they must keep wearing Jesus as they have from the beginning, i.e., they must stay grounded in Him.

Chapter 3, since they have now been clothed with the New Man, Christ, and He has replaced every aspect of their identity—racial, religious, cultural, social, and economic—they must not live in the sinful ways they used to. Instead, they must think, speak, and act like Jesus in every way. Therefore, they must show the utmost care and concern for everyone around them, whether wives, husbands, children, parents, masters, or slaves.

Chapter 4, Paul closes the letter with a prayer request: he wants opportunities to give the Gospel and the ability to present it as he should and he encourages the Colossians to do the same, i.e., to present the Gospel in a desirable manner. Paul also mentions several individuals who are showing the utmost care and concern for those around them, even if it costs them their freedom. That is, individuals whose lives reflect the fact that they are wearing Jesus.

Colossians Chapters 1-4, it’s possible to live and love exactly like Jesus: the Colossians have been doing it since they were introduced to Jesus. In fact, this is Paul’s desire for everyone: he wants everyone who has Christ dwelling inside them to live life based on their oneness with Jesus. Thus, instead of living by the satanic wisdom that runs this world Paul wants the Colossians to live by Christ’s wisdom, especially since His death has permanently clothed them with Himself. Therefore, their lives should reflect their new identity in Christ. They should live like Jesus showing the utmost care and concern for everyone around them. Their lives should look like the lives of others whose sacrifice and conduct is evidence that they are wearing Jesus.