

YOUR NEW MAN PLACES YOU IN A NEW FAMILY WHERE CHRIST IS ALL—AND IN ALL (COLOSSIANS 3:11)

Please take your Bibles and turn once again to Colossians, chapter 3 and follow along as I read verses 5-11. In the verses we just read, Paul leaves the **instructional/teaching** part of his letter in chapters 1 and 2—and chapter 3:1-4—to the **application/doing** part of the letter.

--In vs 5-7, we have the command to “Mortify therefore your members which are upon earth...”

--What does **mortify** mean? It means to “put to death; to slay; to render inoperative.”

--**What** are we to put to death? The **lustful passions** that lead to the immoral behavior listed in vs 5!

--**Why** are we to do that? Because—according to verse 6—those sins characterize the children of disobedience—meaning **the unsaved!**

--And we know from vs 7 that those sins **can be put to death** because they **had been** “indulged in” by some of the Colossian believers **in the past**—but they **didn't participate** in them anymore!

In vs 8-11—the verses we looked at last week—we see another **command**: “But now ye also put off all of these...” The **first** three—anger, wrath, and malice—**may or may not** be seen in the way we speak. The **second** three, however—blasphemy, filthy communication, and lying—**do come out** in the way we speak because they are sins of the tongue!

Why are we to put off—why are we to **stop doing**—the sins God led Paul to list in verses 8 and 9? Because of the **three** reasons God gives us **after** the list of sins!

1) First, because we have “...put off the old man with his deeds;”

--**What** is the **old man**? The **old man** is our old **way of life** that is controlled and influenced by our sinful, selfish, nature.

--**When** is our old man “put off?” Notice again what it says in vs 3. When is “our life hid with Christ”? Stated another way, when does God count us as being “dead with Christ” like it says in Col 2:20? When **we personally receive Christ** as our Savior...and are born again...and become a child of God!

--And because our **old man** is counted as being dead, it most certainly should not be “managing” our mouth!
In other words, your speech **should not be the same** as it was before you became a child of God!

2) A second reason to put off these six sins is this: because we “have put on the new man” (vs 10).

--**What** is the **new man**? It is your **new way of life**, controlled by a **new nature**, that is being **made new**—renewed—by the Holy Spirit that is in you!

--**When** did we become a **new creature**—a new creation—in Christ? When we repented of our sins...and received Christ...and were born again. In other words, at the **same time** we put off the old man!

--But even though we have put on the new man at the **moment of our salvation**, verse 10 goes on to say that our new man **is being renewed**—present tense—“in knowledge after the image of Him that created him/us.”

--The **process** of renewal—the way we are renewed—is “in knowledge”—meaning a first-hand, **heart-to-heart relationship with God** Himself! It is us spending time with Him—wanting to **know Him** better and **obey** Him more—by seeking His will through His Word—and listening to what His **Spirit says in our hearts**.

--The **product** of renewal—the end result—is that we will become more and more like the One who created us! Romans 8:29 refers to it as being “conformed to the image of His Son;” II Corinthians 3:18 calls it being “changed into the same image”—meaning a likeness to Christ!

And that brings us to verse 11 where we see a **third** reason, we should put off the sins listed in verses 8-9. Notice again what verse 11 says. Where is the “where” “where there is neither Greek nor Jew...?” The **church**—the body of Christ, which is made up of various groups of people, where Christ is all—and in all.

So we should “put off all these” because we are members of a new **family—the body of Christ!**

First, let's consider... **1. The members of the body**

Before we dig into verse 11, I need to point out why I'm using the word "body" instead of "family." Notice again the title of the message: "Your New Man Places You in a New **Family** Where Christ is all—and in All!"

If the title was: "Your New Man Places You in a New **Body** Where Christ is all—and in All," you could get the impression that after you become a child of God and are a new person in Christ, you are "placed into" a new **physical** body. But that, of course, is not true—not immediately, anyway!

The "body" we are placed into is a **spiritual** body—not a physical one—and is often referred to as the **church**. We see that in Colossians 1:18; let's turn there. Notice what it says: "And He [referring to Christ] is the head of the body, the church..."

The church—in this context—is obviously **not a building!** And it is also not—in this verse—referring to **just the believers** of the city of Colosse that Paul was writing to! The "church" in Colossians 1:18 is a reference to what we call the **universal** church—a phrase used to describe **all** born-again, blood-bought believers...from all parts of the world—that were saved since the day of Pentecost (2000 years ago) until now!

And I said all that to say this—the **family of God** and the **body of Christ** are the same thing—but the Bible refers to it **much more often** as the **body of Christ**. But if that is confusing, think "family" and you'll be fine!

Back to Colossians 3, verse 11. Notice again the first part of the verse: "Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free..."

Why does Paul bring up the church—the body of Christ—in the middle of telling them **how they ought to live** as the new man? Because being a "new man" is what "placed them" into the body of Christ in the first place! So along with their new **identity**, they have a new **community!** Here are **three truths** regarding our new community, the body of Christ.

A. The variety of the members in the body

Much has been written about the **four pairs** of words found in the beginning of verse 11.

--For example, **Greek**—which could also be translated Gentile—is the opposite of being a **Jew**.

--**Circumcision** is obviously the opposite of **uncircumcision**—and **bond** (meaning someone in bondage) is the opposite of **free**.

--But **Barbarian** and **Scythian** are **more similar** than they are different—according to most commentaries—which means they are **not opposites** like the other three pairs.

And then there is the **difference of opinion** as to what each pair **signifies**.

--For example, **Steven Cole** suggests that "neither Greek nor Jew" points to **national** distinctions and Barbarian versus Scythian indicates **racial** differences.

--**Arthur Patzia**, however, suggests that "neither Greek nor Jew" points to **racial** differences, while Barbarian versus Scythian indicates **cultural** distinctions!

So who's right? We don't know! But we do know this—the **members of the church of Colosse** understood perfectly the distinctions Paul was pointing out!

For us, the main take-away is this: there is a **variety of people** within the body of Christ! That is true of the body of Christ as a whole—and that is true (or at least should be) in individual churches—including ours!

B. The priority of identity of members in the body

Paul is obviously not saying that there was "neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision" in the church. How do we know? Because if the church had **no Greeks** (meaning non-Jews) and **no Jews**, there wouldn't be anyone in the church! The same holds true for circumcision vs uncircumcision and bond vs free.

What Paul **is saying**, though, is this—the **priority of your identity** is not your nationality...or race...or former religion...or social standing. The **priority of your identity** is that you are a **new man**—and **in Christ!**

Simply put, the things that sometimes divide **unsaved** people—like age, background, education level, financial standing, political party, and race—should not be something that **causes divisions within the church!**

Steven Cole put it like this: “It brings glory to Christ and is a vital part of our witness in the world when young and old and rich and poor representing every local race and culture, worship and work together because of the gospel.” (Bibleorg.com; *Why Christians Must be Truthful* (Colossians 3:9-11)).

Next, let’s consider... C. The equality of members in the body

--**Who** is the **most important** member of the body?

The head, right, meaning Christ!

--**Who** is the **second most** important member of the body?

Everyone else, right?

I believe that is what Paul is alluding to in the last part of verse 11 when he says Christ is **in all**.

Is Christ in **everyone**? No; Christ **does not reside** in the heart of the unsaved! But—if you are a child of God—**the Spirit of Christ**—meaning the Holy Spirit—dwells in you!

--Colossians 1:27 ends with these words: “...which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.”

--Rom 8:10 “And if **Christ be in you**, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”

--Ephesians 3:17 “That **Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith**; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,”

Since Christ died the **same death** for each of us—and His Spirit **lives in each** of His children—not just a select few—it means **we are all equal!** No one member is more important than another! As more than one person has said, “**The ground at the foot of the cross is level!**”

For the sake of time, I’m not going to have you turn there but I Corinthians 12—the entire chapter—stresses **the equality within the body**. I’m going to read for you just a few of the verses I have on your outline.

--**I Corinthians 12:18-21** “But now **hath God set the members** every one of them in the body, **as it hath pleased Him**.¹⁹ And if they were all one member, where were the body? ²⁰ But now are they many members, yet but one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.”

No member should be **puffed up by pride**—and no member should be **wallowing in pity**—because we are all equal! And **I Corinthians 12:25** tells us **why** God has designed it that way: “**That there should be no schism [meaning, division] in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.**”

--Do we **care** for one another the way we want others **to care for us**?

--Do we **pray** for one another the way we want others **to pray for us**?

--Do we **treat** one another the way we want others to **treat** us—or do we just **tolerate** one another?

Am I mean to ask these questions? **Not at all**—I’m just reminding you what Jesus said in **Luke 6:31** “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.”

Easy enough **to understand**, but not always easy to **put into practice!**

We’ve looked at the members of the body, now let’s consider... **2. The Master of the body**

--**Who** is the master—the head—of the body? Christ!

--**Why?** Because Christ is all!

--**What** does that mean? Where do **we start**, right? It’s almost as if Paul wants them to go back and review everything that he had written to them about Christ in chapters 1 and 2! I’m not going to read those chapters to you, but I am going to point out some things we looked at late last year.

A. Christ is all regarding our salvation

--In Col 1:12, we see that Christ is the one who “makes us meet”—qualifies us—for the inheritance of heaven

--In Col 1:13, we are translated—transferred—out of Satan’s kingdom into Christ’s kingdom

--In Col 1:14, we see that it is Christ’s blood that brings redemption and the forgiveness of sins

--In Col 1:20, we see we have peace with God because Christ’s blood was shed for us on the cross

--In Col 1:21 and 22, we see it is Christ’s death that reconciles us to God—and that it is Christ’s death that presents us as holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in God’s sight!

--In Col 2:12, it is Christ that we are counted as being buried with—and raised with

--In Col 2:13, Christ is the one who death allows the forgiveness of all our trespasses

--In Col 2:14, Christ is the one who fulfilled the demands of the Law—and nailed the Law to His cross

There should be no question whatsoever that **Christ is all** when it comes **to salvation!** And these are from only **two** chapters in **one** of the 27 books of the New Testament!

Here are some other verses that we should know:

--John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man** cometh unto the Father, **but by me.**"

--Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation **in any other**: for there is **none other name** under heaven given among men, **whereby we must be saved.**"

--I John 5:12 "He that **hath the Son hath life**; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

I said it once, but here it is again—**Christ is all when it comes to salvation**—period! **Is Christ your Savior?** If not, you **don't have a Savior**—and will spend eternity separated from God in a place called hell!

Second, not only is Christ all when it comes to **salvation**, **B. Christ is all regarding our sanctification**
What is sanctification? **Sanctification** is the word we use to describe the life-long growth of believers whereby they become more and more like Jesus. It **begins** when we are born-again—and **ends** when we die and go to be with Christ!

And Christ is all regarding **sanctification** because Christ is the One whose **image we are being changed into!**
--In Col 1:28, Paul says that he preached and taught and warned every person with the desire to present them **perfect**—meaning mature—in Christ Jesus!

--In Col 2:2-3, Paul wanted them to have full assurance of all the riches they had in Christ because in Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge

--In Col 2:8-10, we are reminded of the purpose of Paul's letter—to warn these believers against the false teachers who proclaimed Christ was not enough.

What was the message of the false teachers? 'Philosophy—and keeping man-made rules—will get you closer to God!' What was Paul's response to that message?

"In Christ" (vs 9) "dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." In other words, all that makes God, God, is found in Christ! And he puts the exclamation point on it by saying: "And ye are **complete** in Him!"

--In Col 2:20-22, Paul warns them about being deceived by the false teachers' message that you have to **inflict suffering on yourself** in order to become more like Jesus!

--And in Col 2:23, Paul concludes by saying: 'Self-inflicted suffering doesn't restrain your sinful, selfish nature!

Christ is all you need for **salvation**—and Christ is all you need for **sanctification!**

Lastly, if Christ is all for salvation—and sanctification—**C. Christ should be all regarding our submission**

What do I mean by **submission**? The One we submit to; the One we follow...and seek to please and serve.

--In Col 1:9-10, Paul reminds them—and us—that we are to be filled with the knowledge of God's will—for the purpose of **living a life that is pleasing to Him!**

--In Col 1:18, we see that Christ is the head of the body. That means He is the leader...the master...the One whose lead we should follow. **What** will that **look like?**

--There will be **harmony and unity** in the church. Why? Because we are all seeking to follow and please the same master!

--In Col 2:6, we are commanded to walk—meaning live—in a way that reflects Christ. And a characteristic of Christ's life is that He **did always those things that pleased the Father!**

--What pleases the Father? We already touched on it. He has placed us in the body—and made us all equal—so there would be divisions—and that we would care one for another.

--And looking ahead, in Col 3:23-24, we see that whatever we do should be done to the best of our ability because we "**serve** the Lord Christ."

--Are **we serving** Christ in the church? God wants us to, doesn't He? That is why He **placed us** where He placed us—and **gifted us** in the areas He has gifted us! Are **you** using **your gifts** for the Lord?

Don't wait for people to ask you to serve—be **asking God** how He wants you to serve—then **start serving!**

II Corinthians 5:14-15 “For the love of Christ constraineth [compels] us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: ¹⁵ And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.”

Are you doing that? Are you living for the One who died for you?

So what would God have us do in light of what we've heard this morning?

1. First, Christ is all for salvation—period! We cannot be saved from the future punishment of our sins—and allowed entrance into the presence of a thrice-holy God in heaven—unless we have Christ.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners!

What about you? Are you a child of God?

Have you personally received Him for yourself?

If not, that is what God wants you to do!

2. Second, because Christ is the head of the church, He is your master.

Do you look at Him as such?

Do you follow Him...and obey Him...and seek to please Him and serve Him?

Based on His love for us, it is our “reasonable service” to present ourselves as a living sacrifice to Him.

Have you done that?

If not, why not do that today?