



# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion:

## Colossians 3 (Part-I)

Wednesdays  
7.30-8.30PM

### Chapter THREE

#### **A believer's journey to transformed life ... from Hearing to Doing (1-17):**

- What is the foundation for a believer's new life? How can we accomplish it in practice? (1-4)
- What must we "put to death or mortify"? (5-7) What must be "put off"? (8-11) What must we "put on"? (12-16)
- What is the result of putting to death, putting on, putting off? What can be a "golden rule" for 'whatsoever we do'? Can a believer's 'good life' earn him salvation? When is our transformation complete or perfected?

2.24.21



## Bethany Bible Study & Discussion: Colossians 3 (Part-II)

Wednesdays  
7.30-8.30PM

### **A believer's journey to a transformed life (Continued)... from Hearing to Doing**

- **The elect must put on the virtues of new man:** What must we “put on”? (12-16)  
What can be a “golden rule” for ‘whatsoever we do’? (17). Can a believer’s ‘good life’ earn salvation? When is our transformation complete?
- **God’s divine principles for godly homes (18-21):** Why must wives submit to husbands? Are there any exceptions to this rule? Must women also submit to men outside home? Should husbands love be dependent upon wife’s submission? What is the aspirational standard for husband’s love? What will cause bitterness? Why must children obey? How is this different from Ephesians 6:2? Do these divine principles change if husband/wife/father is not a believer? How do we provoke our children? What is the outcome of such provocation?
- **Believer @ work (22-4:1):** What does the Lord expect of Christian workers in the work place? Are there any exceptions to our submission to supervisors in workplace?
- **Personal Reflection** ... *Are we living a transformed life by setting our affection on “heavenly blessings” or are we still chasing “material things” like a dead worldly person?*

3.03.21

# Living the new Life requires action!

- Seek and Set affection above (1-4)
  - Put to death (5-7)
    - Put off (8-9)
      - Put on (12-17)
        - Build Godly homes (18-21)



Is all of  
this  
possible?



**YES,**  
Through  
Christ Alone  
(Romans  
8:10)

# Foundation of Believer's new Life (1-4)

What is the foundation for a believer's new life?

What must we seek if risen with Christ? Where is Christ seated? Where are we seated?

Where must we set our affection?

What must we die to? Where must our life be hid?

When will our glorified life be revealed?

# IF (chapters 1 and 2 are true) (1)

- We believe and worship the **Supremacy of Christ** (image of the invisible God, Firstborn, Creator, Before all creation, Sustainer, Head of the Church, Firstborn from the dead, Fullness of God)
- We have been **reconciled** through Christ
- We recognize **Christ is in-us**, the hope of glory (mystery #1)
- We believe we are **complete in-Christ**
- We received **baptism** after true salvation experience
- We have been **set free** from laws, man made rules & traditions, mysticism, vain philosophy

**OUR LIFE WILL CHANGE**

# IF Risen with Christ (1), seek ...

- **What does it mean to be risen with Christ?**
  - Similar to baptism – dead to sin, and raised to new life (2:12)
  - Relate to Christ – in death, burial, and resurrection
- **If Risen with Christ**
  - **Seek things that are above**
  - Seek Him First (Matthew 6:33)
  - Seek spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3) (OT - material prosperity)
    - Our treasures are above (Matthew 6:20), our citizenship is above (Hebrews 11:16)

# Exalted position of Christ and Our position-in-Christ (1)

- Where is Christ seated?
  - Above ... at the right hand of God (1)
  - Christ rose again and was exalted ([Hebrews 12:2](#))
- Where are we seated?
  - Heavenly places in Christ Jesus ([Ephesians 2:6](#))
  - Our promised **position** is not equal to our daily **practice** ... we will attain perfection at glorification (once a son, always a son ... **eternal security**; our practice does not alter our position)

# If risen with Christ, set affection on ...

(2)

## A new life requires

setting affection on **things above** (heavenly things, and not earthly things)

Love of money ... our greatest obstacle to new life

(Bible does not condemn riches but warns against love of money)

(other obstacle: deep worldly relationships)

*Such a change is possible*

... verse 3



# Change is possible ...

Is our life  
changing?

## IF we die to the world (3)

Through Christ, Through Cross, we are crucified to the world and the world to us (Paul, [Galatians 6:14](#))

## IF our life is hid in Christ (3)

Crucified with Christ, Christ lives in me ([Galatians 2:20](#))

World may not understand, may mock such hidden lives

Hidden life revealed at Christ coming (4) ([I John 3:2](#))

Christ in you, the hope of glory ([1:27](#))

# Living the New Life requires Action!

- Seek and Set affection above (1-4)
  - Put to death (5-7)
    - Put off (8-9)
      - Put on (12-17)
        - Build Godly homes (18-21)



Is all of  
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**YES,**  
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Put to Death (5-7)

# New Life ... Mortify or Put to death

- What must be put to death?
  - **Lust of the flesh** ... Fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire ... sexual and immoral sins, in thoughts and in deed ([Matthew 15:19](#), [Mark 7:21](#))
  - **Covetousness** ... greed, wanting what is not ours ... opposite of covetousness is contentment
    - Because of these sins (which are common in the world) the wrath of God will come. God will not be silent for ever. These deeds will not go unpunished.
- That was our history (v.7) but it should not be our present

**What must be put off?  
Why must we put off?  
(8-11)**

# A new man must Put off ...

- **Sins of the tongue:**

- anger (lack of patience),
- Wrath or rage (intense anger)
- malice (intent to harm others such as through gossip)
- slander or blasphemy (expressing anger such as scolding harshly)
- filthy language
- lies

- “Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless” (James 1:26, NIV) \* James 3:1-12 (Taming the tongue)

# WHY must we Put off? (10,11)

- We have put on the new man .. we have exchanged our filthy rags for garments of righteousness and robes of salvation
- We are renewed in knowledge ... by having access to Christ who is the source of knowledge and wisdom
  - Our walk and our witness should be consistent with such knowledge
- We have a new identity, a new family, no discrimination ... we all are part of the chosen generation

What must we put on  
(12-17)



# Who are we? (12)

- Elect of God (chosen ones)
- Holy (set apart, sanctified, purified, separated)
- Beloved

# Since we are different, we must put on (12-14) ...

1. Compassion
2. Kindness
3. Humility
4. Gentleness
5. Patience
6. Forbearing
7. Forgiveness
8. Above all, Love ... Love is the foundation

# Other virtues (15, 16)

- **Peace** (in our hearts) and with others in the body
- Filled with the **Word of God**
  - To teach and admonish with wisdom “through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs”

“ But be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:18-19)

# Golden Rule

- Will my thoughts and deeds bring glory to God?

“Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (17)

# God's Divine order for our Homes

## **Divine Order**

- Is instituted by God
- Changing the order will lead to confusion, conflicts, losses, sorrows

## **The Divine Order:**

- Wife submit to your Husband,
  - Husband love your wife,
  - Children obey their parents
- 
- Not easy ... but we must make every effort, by the grace of God!

# Wife ... submit to your husband (18)

- Submission (means yielding to the authority of husband)
- Submission must be done voluntarily, willingly

**Why submit?** That is God's divine order for a godly home

## Submission DOES NOT mean ...

- Submitting on issues that you agree on (that is easy 😊)
- Wives are unequal or inferior to husbands
- Wife is weaker or foolish
- Submitting to men, in general (only husband)

# Wife ... submit to your husband

## As it is fit in the Lord (18)

- Submission is Honorable in God's eyes
- We do it to please the Lord and bring glory to him
- If we love the Lord, we must obey His commands

# Exceptions to submissions

1. If submission will lead to sin
  2. If marriage covenant is broken by husband's adultery
  3. If Medical/Mental impairment affects husband's ability to lead
- "Imperfect husband" is not on this list! (all husbands are imperfect 😞)

(Bible calls two imperfect people, brought together in marriage, to mutually love, respect, and submit)



# Husbands Love

- **Love as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25)**
  - Sacrificial, unconditional, selfless, no reciprocal expectation, consistent, reliable
  - Love is not dependent on having a perfect wife (no wife is perfect 😞) ... remember, Christ loved sinners like us!
- Submission of wife does not give reckless, irrational, and dictatorial authority to the husband. Authority must be administered in love and respect.
- Be not bitter (have no grudges, forgive & forget)

# Children obey in all things

## How is this different from Ephesians 6:2?

- Obedience is part of honor; obedience 'in all things' may end after growing old/married/leaving home but honor continues till parents die

**Why obey?:** It pleases the Lord, it is part of His divine order, it will lead to blessings in life

Jesus submitted to the authority of his earthly parents ([Luke 2:51](#)) and heavenly Father ([John 6:38](#), [John 8:29](#), [Hebrews 5:8](#)).

Jesus asks us to submit to the authority of God ([Mark 3:35](#))

# Fathers ... do not provoke (21)

## What does it mean to provoke?

Nagging, excessive control, unrealistic demands, harsh, irrational boundaries, uncontrolled anger, insults, lack of love, discouraging words, lack of confidence

## What is the consequence of provoking?

Discouraged and distant children, no natural bond of love between parents & children, children submit as a duty ... and kids can't wait to get out of home to taste independence and love.

# Divine order with unbelievers

Do these principles change if the other person  
is not a believer?

Must wife still submit? (husband is unbeliever)

Must husbands still love? (wife is unbeliever)

Must children still obey? (father is unbeliever)

# Master-Servant Relationship

3:22-4:1

# Master-Servant relationship (Supervisor/Bosses in our situation)

## Servants

- **Submit** (in all things ... except when it leads to sin or violates biblical principles like bribing, lying, exploiting, illicit relationships (run away like Joseph did!))
- **Why?:** We are working for the Lord (implies we should give it our best shot ... God should be able, well done!) (Genesis 24:33)
- Reward from the Lord is eternal

# Master-Servant relationship (Supervisor/Bosses in our situation)

## Masters:

- Be **just and fair** to employees (no discrimination, no exploitation)
- There is no partiality with God (Ephesians 6:9)
  - Unfair treatment leads to dissatisfaction, rebellion and destruction of masters business
  - When employees feel they are treated with respect and fairly, they tend to be loyal and exceed expectations!!

# What, Why, How of transformed Christian Life

While Paul teaches us “what to do” and “why we should do”, what is missing maybe “how to do” ... for example, how do we put to death, how do we put off sinful habits, how do we submit to imperfect husbands or love imperfect wives?

**How to do?:** For that we need to pray and seek God’s wisdom as revealed in other portion of the scriptures, and seek the counsel of Godly believers that we can trust.



# LORD

## ... our role model and inspiration for relationships

- **WIVES** ... fit “in the Lord” (18)
- **HUSBANDS** ... as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25)
- **CHILDREN** ... well pleasing “unto the Lord” (20)
- **SERVANTS** ... do it as “to the Lord” (23)
- **MASTERS** ... have a “master in Heaven” (4:1)