Colossians

**Living the Resurrected Life! (Part 2)**

Lesson #6

(3:11-4:1)

**VS 11 - *Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised,*** ***barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.***

It is here, in the new covenant family, in the family of believers that all distinctions are erased!

In Christ, there is no longer any national distinctions.

**In Christ there is neither Greek nor Jew.**

A fellowship of Jews, Greeks, Scythians, free men, and slaves would have been unthinkable!

Christ is all, and in all. **Equality at the cross, with the Spirit of God living in all believers.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***12Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.***

Paul previously instructed the church in Colossae what they **should not do**, Paul now walks them through what the resurrected life looks like and outlines behaviors and attitudes they should put on.

**Before we unpack his points, lets first review how he describes the church.**

**The first way we are described is as:**

**Vs 12** – ***God’s chosen ones* –** The Greek word is **ἐκλεκτός** (ek-lek-tos’), this word means picked out or chosen. It highlights the reality that as believers God chose us. This choice was not based on our goodness or future performance. Instead, this highlights His manifold grace towards us.

*“****3*** *¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,* ***4*** *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love* ***5*** *he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,* ***6*** *to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.” (Eph 1:3-6 ESV)*

**You and I, like the believers in Colossae and Ephesus are God’s chosen ones. This is meant to bring great comfort, security, and peace.**

Now this is indeed a mystery, but the Bible teaches two things over and over and with great clarity.

1. To be saved you must of your own free will and volition, choose to believe the gospel, choose to place your faith in Jesus.
2. If you are saved, it is because God chose you in him before the foundation of the world.

***Holy -* ἅγιος** (hag’-ee-os) - It means set apart and of course we are set apart by God, but it also means holy as in the characteristic that is uniquely of God. Believers are holy!

***Beloved* - ἀγαπάω** (ag-ap-ah’-o) is that perfect unconditional love that flows from God to his children. You and I are “loved” by God. We are His beloved!

Chosen, holy, and beloved are how the nation of Israel was described in a number of verses in the Old Testament:

*“****6*** *"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.* ***7*** *It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples,* ***8*** *but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.” (De 7:6-8 ESV)*

John MacArthur summed up the point I want to make this way: *“A change has taken place in the economy of God. What was once true of the elect nation is now true of all who come to faith in Christ.”*

Paul now strings together a list of twelve things that we should do, things that we should ***“put on.”*** The illustration is to remove dirty soiled garments an **put on** these clean garments

**Therefore, as the people whom God loves with an unconditional love. Put on…**

1. ***Compassionate hearts*** – The first word is bowels; the second word is mercy or compassion.

We should be a people known for their compassion for one another and their compassion for others.

1. ***Kindness*** – integrity, moral goodness, kindness

This word is closely related to compassion. It brings with it the idea of something that is not harsh, but easy, gentle, and morally good.

*“****22*** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* ***23*** *gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (Ga 5:22-23 ESV)*

1. ***Humility –*** A deep sense of our smallness, a humble mind, a lowly mind.

Humility is the antidote to pride and self-love that poisons relationships.

God taking on human form and coming to earth serves as the model for you and I about what humility really looks like:

*“****3*** *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.* ***4*** *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.* ***5*** *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,* ***6*** *who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,* ***7*** *but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.* ***8*** *And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Php 2:3-8 ESV)*

1. ***Meekness –*** gentleness, mildness, or meekness.

This is very similar to humility but could be described as power under control.

This is a willingness to suffer wrong rather than inflict it.

*“****22*** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* ***23*** *gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (Ga 5:22-23 ESV)*

1. ***Patience –*** endurance, steadfastness, longsuffering, or slowness in avenging wrongs.

The patient person is not easily angered, the person who is patient exhibits longsuffering.

*“****22*** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* ***23*** *gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (Ga 5:22-23 ESV)*

1. ***Bearing with one another –*** The idea here is to endure or to hold out despite persecution, injury, or indifference.

Now if we are honest, I suspect our list of things that fall under the idea of living the resurrected life probably looks much different that Paul’s list.

1. ***Forgiving one another –*** *(even if we have a complaint or a quarrel),* showing grace to one another, looking past our faults and to our relationship, bringing gracious towards one another, freely forgiving one another!

It has been said: *“We are most like God when we forgive.”*

Then Paul provides the reason we are to forgive one another, the reasons we are to look past the faults of one another:

**Vs 13b** - ***as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.***

Christ has forgiven each of us of so much. We should, no we must, show that same forgiveness to others.

*“****14*** *For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,* ***15*** *but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Mt 6:14-15 ESV)*

**Forgiveness is a mark of the forgiven.**

1. **Love -** ***And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.***

The Greek word is **ἀγάπη** (ag-ah’-pay), this is the kind of love, that God loves you and I with and it is the kind of love we are to **“put on.”**

This kind of love, Paul tells us, **brings everything together in perfect harmony.**

1. **Vs 15 -** ***Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts* –** let Christ’s peace control your heart so that you are not affected by adversity from people or disturbances due to circumstance.

Put on… The peace of Christ and let it rule your hearts.

Having been justified by faith we now have peace with God (Rom 5:1). Therefore let that peace ***“rule”*** in your hearts.

The Greek word translated rule, brings with it the idea of an umpire making a decision. We could say let the peace of Christ, **guide**, **direct**, and **control your heart.**

1. ***Be Thankful*** *–* Thankfulness, like forgiveness is a mark of a believer.

You and I are to be thankful for all that God has done for us!

*“give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1Th 5:18 ESV)*

Thankfulness is like a medicine for the heart.

1. ***Let the word of Christ dwell in us (richly), teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.***

Here the picture is a person who is reading, studying, and meditating on God’s word. A person who is being directed by it, who is sharing the Word with others, and who is admonishing (warning) others.

This is a person who uses the word of God as a light for his or her own path and helps light the paths of others (Ps 119:105).

This is a person whose heart is filled with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

By the way letting the word of Christ dwell in us is the same as being filled with the Spirt, the companion text:

*“****18*** *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,* ***19*** *addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,” (Eph 5:18-19 ESV)*

**To highlight the point. To be filled with the spirit, is to be directed by the Word, which is another way of saying to let the word of Christ dwell in you richly!**

Before we leave point (11), notice the repetition of thankfulness here in verse 16.

1. ***Whatever you do, in word or deed, do it in the name of Jesus***

Do everything like you were doing it for Christ.

**This is the simplest and most basic rule of living the Resurrected life. Do everything in the name of Jesus. Do everything like you are doing it for Jesus.**

**Notice again…. *With thankfulness in your hearts to God!*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***18Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. 20Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. 22Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 23Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. 25For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.***

Next Paul describes living the resurrected life at the most personal level. He describes what living the resurrected life looks like in our homes (husband, wife, mother, father, and child) as well as our workplace (slave or master).

So again, as I told you last week, we have moved to a very practical section of Colossians.

**Vs 18 –** ***Wives submit to your husbands…*** The Greek word is **ὑποτάσσω** (hoop-ot-as’-so), it means to subordinate, to be in subjection, to arrange under. It is a military term that brings with it the idea of troops being arranged under a military commander or leader.

**It is a verb in the present tense and imperative mood.**

This exact same word is used of Jesus “submitting” to his earthly mom and dad:

*“And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.” (Lu 2:51 ESV)*

*“Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.” (Eph 5:24 ESV)*

*“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” (Ro 13:1 ESV)*

*“And “Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."” (1Pe 5:5 ESV)*

*“Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.” (Eph 5:24 ESV)*

**It is “fitting” for wives to do this “in the Lord”**

**Vs 19 – *Husbands love your wives...*** The Greek word as you might guess is **ἀγαπάω** (ag-ap-ah’-o). It describes that selfless love that has nothing to do with situations or circumstances. It has everything to do with the husband choosing to love his wife with a selfless love.

**This too is a verb, and it is in the present tense and imperative mood.**

This type of love is the way that God loves us and thus husbands can display of the love of Christ, as they love their wife the way Christ loves them.

*“For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.” (Joh 10:17 ESV)*

*“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Ga 2:20 ESV)*

*“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,” (Eph 5:25 ESV)*

**Men, if we are married, we are to love our spouse the way Christ loves you.**

**Vs 19 *- and do not be harsh with them.***

The Greek word translated harsh is **πικραίνω** (pik-rah’-ee-no). The word literally means to be bitter, it seems that what Paul is getting at is to not be angry, not to deal bitterly with your wife.

**It is noteworthy that Paul would include this additional detail for men and probably says a great deal about us (men) (post fall).**

**VS 20 *- Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.***

Vs 20 explains how a child, or a teenager lives the **resurrected life.**

And as you might guess the verb translated **obey is present tense and imperative mood.**

**Vs 21 - *Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged*.**

Written to fathers, **the present tense impetrative is to not provoke**. The idea of this Greek word is to **stir-up**, to **stimulate**, **exasperate**, or **to be hard on them.**

This type of parenting from the father can discourage, dishearten, or break the spirit of a child.

**Vs 22- *Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.***

Bondservants, by way of application we will insert employees.

The idea for us as we think about ourselves as employees is two-fold:

*“Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s." And they marveled at him.” (Mr 12:17 ESV)*

and

**Vs 23 -**  ***Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,***

**Vs 24 - *knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.***

The earthly boss, the earthly master may not repay the employee or the slave what they truly deserve. But the Lord will! Equally, Paul reminds them that ultimately they are not serving men, they are serving Jesus!

**With a warning:**

**Vs 25 - *For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.***

The idea here is that the Lord will discipline without partiality when it comes to disobedience in his children.

**One final verse:**

**4:1 M*asters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.***

Again, we make the application to employees and recognize that employers must treat them fairly, justly, and do all things in love.

Even if it means correcting behavior or performance.

For we know… ***knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.***

When we say “living the resurrected life” it sounds mystical. When Paul unpacks living that life, it is extremely practical.

**Because you have a new identity in Christ…. Let’s live it!**

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