

Guidelines for Holy Living

Colossians 3: 1-17

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OUTLINE OF THE LESSON

- 1. Set Your Mind on Things Above.**
- 2. You have died and your life is hidden.**
- 3. Put to death your old practices.**
- 4. All are one in Christ.**
- 5. Clothe yourselves with Christian Virtues.**
- 6. Let your conversation and worship be full of Christ's words.**
- 7. Do everything in the name of Jesus.**

1. Set Your Mind on Things Above.

Col. 3: 1-2

1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

1. Set Your Mind on Things Above.

Part of discipleship is deciding where our minds will go and where they won't.

We must make this conscious decision perhaps several times a day as temptations come up.

1. Set Your Mind on Things Above.

Jesus rebuked Peter.

Mk. 8: 33

33 But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and *said, “Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”

1. Set Your Mind on Things Above.

Phil. 2: 3-8

3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

4 do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

5 **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,**

6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

8 Being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

1. Set Your Mind on Things Above.

Rom. 8: 5-8

5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*,

8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.⁷

2. You have died and your life is hidden.

Believers are in Christ. They share in Christ's death, resurrection, new life, and His fullness.

Your old life is dead, and your new life is now found only in Christ.

Col. 3: 3-4

3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

2. You have died and your life is hidden.

There are spiritual changes that take place in us when we repent of our sins and receive Jesus Christ in our lives.

Gal. 2: 20

20 **I have been crucified with Christ;** and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me;** and **the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by** **faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.**

2. You have died and your life is hidden.

Phil. 3: 20

20 For our citizenship **is in heaven**, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, **the Lord Jesus Christ**;

1 John 3: 2

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

3. Put to death your old practices.

Col. 3: 5-8

5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,

7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,

10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

3. Put to death your old practices.

As Christians, we identify with Christ and not with our old life.

A. Put to death our earthly nature: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

B. Put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another.

These sins belong to your former life, not your new life.

3. Put to death your old practices.

C. Lay aside the old self with its evil practices.

This change is not just external, but internal, in our spirit and in our character.

D. Be renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.

Eph. 2: 10

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

3. Put to death your old practices.

Rom. 12: 2

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

3. Put to death your old practices.

2 Cor. 4: 16

16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

The process of renewal is God's work in us, the fruit of the Holy Spirit of God. The renewal involves our mind, as we take hold of and internalize God's truths (knowledge from **His Word**). But the goal is far beyond ourselves; it is to restore God's image in us that has been marred and damaged through sin.

4. All are one in Christ.

Col 3: 11

11 *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction* between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

Greeks worshiped many gods; Jews worshiped one God. Now they are one in Christ.

Christians are no longer divided by race, religion, geographical origin, social status, or gender.

5. Clothe yourselves with Christian Virtues.

Col. 3: 12-15

12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

14 Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

5. Clothe yourselves with Christian Virtues.

We are God's people. We are to clothe ourselves with the character of Christ. Christian virtues bring honor to our Savior.

- 1. Compassion**
- 2. Kindness**
- 3. Humility**
- 4. Gentleness**
- 5. Patience**
- 6. Bearing with one another**
- 7. Forgiving each other**
- 8. Put on Love the perfect bond of unity**
- 9. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts**
- 10. Be thankful**

6. Let your conversation and worship be full of Christ's words.

Col. 3: 16

16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

6. Let your conversation and worship be full of Christ's words.

1 Cor. 14: 15

15 What is *the outcome* then? **I will pray with the spirit** and **I will pray with the mind** also; **I will sing with the spirit** and **I will sing with the mind** also.

6. Let your conversation and worship be full of Christ's words.

1 Cor. 14: 26

26 What is *the outcome* then, brethren?

When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

6. Let your conversation and worship be full of Christ's words.

Eph. 5: 19-20

**19 speaking to one another in
psalms and hymns and spiritual
songs, singing and making melody
with your heart to the Lord;**

**20 always giving thanks for all things
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
to God, even the Father;**

6. Let your conversation and worship be full of Christ's words.

Psalms - written to be sung and were sung by the Jews in Paul's day. These also could have been Christian odes patterned on the book of Psalms.

Hymns - Group members were encouraged to each bring a hymn or some other contribution from the Spirit when the believers gathered, in order to build up one another (1 Corinthians 14: 26). These may have been longer compositions.

Spiritual songs may have been more spontaneous, perhaps like Paul's "singing in the Spirit" (1 Corinthians 14: 15), though the lines between psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs are not firmly drawn.

6. Let your conversation and worship be full of Christ's words.

Three points are made about the Word of Christ.

A. The Christian must **make room within his heart for the Word of Christ.** He **must let the Word of Christ enter his heart and make a home within his heart.** He **must let the Word of Christ dwell and abide in his heart.**

6. Let your conversation and worship be full of Christ's words.

Three points are made about the Word of Christ.

B. Christians are to teach and admonish one another in all wisdom.

C. Christians are teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in their hearts to the Lord.

7. Do everything in the name of Jesus.

Col. 3: 17

17 Whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.**

A. Christians should speak and act in full consciousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- i. To **live, move, and have our being** in the name of Christ.
- ii. To **trust and depend** upon the name of Christ in all that we do.
- iii. To **claim** the name of Christ in all that we say and do.
- iv. To **represent** Christ in all that we say and do.

7. Do everything in the name of Jesus.

B. If what we are planning to do or say can't stand the test of Jesus' presence and approval without our being ashamed, then it isn't appropriate.

C. The Christian's response is that of thanksgiving. God, the Father, has become the believer's Father by Christ and only by Christ. Therefore, the Christian is constantly thanking God, the Father, through Jesus.

IN CONCLUSION

- 1. Set Your Mind on Things Above (Col. 3: 2).**
- 2. You have died and your life is hidden (Col. 3: 3-4).**
- 3. Put to death your old practices (Col. 3: 5-10).**
- 4. All are one in Christ (Col. 3: 11).**
- 5. Clothe yourselves with Christian Virtues (Col. 3: 12-15).**
- 6. Let your conversation and worship be full of Christ's words (Col. 3: 16).**
- 7. Do everything in the name of Jesus (Col. 3: 17).**