

The Life of Christian Households, Colossians 3: 18-25, 20180910

In Col. 1: 24-29, Paul lays the foundation for the life of a genuine Christian in God's household. Above all suffering, good feelings and especially all human teachings, he teaches us to express God's glory on this earth. Christ in you the hope of glory. He labors to this end with Christ's energy, which so powerfully works in him. As Paul experiences, we can experience Christ as he did.

Starting

How do we start with it? **Col. 3:9**, *But now you yourselves are to **put off** all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.* He tells us to put off the old man, what we are, like we have to shed off our old tattered and soiled cloths.

Instead, we have to clothe ourselves with the new man, as we put on new, clean and pure clothes. **V10 & V12-14**, *and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge **according to the image of Him who created him.***

*Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on** tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.*

Put off

We have to come first to the point that broken hearted we realize with a shock and shame that we fall short of what God's desire is for us. We have to be broken first as soil that is ploughed before it could be sown in and planted. Spiritually we will feel broken and poor. Jesus spoke about this condition in Mat. 5:3 **Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Learn to recognize the characteristics of the old life: the self-centered, praise loving, prideful flesh in every one of us. Reject that! Put it off!

Let me ask you a question, how do you wake up in the morning? Ready to join the rat race and battle in your office, on the road, at home, with yourself or even in the church? I guarantee you that day will be a living hell!

Or can you tell yourself; I am not going to join the back stabbing, gossip, cheating, the anger, politicking, impatience, cursing and more worldly stuff that makes us miserable?

Then you have come to a point of making an important decision; to be obedient and to follow Him. This is very much the moment of repentance! This is also the moment that we **put off** our old man, like old clothes that don't cover our nakedness before God.

The prayer that Jesus taught us goes with it, Mat. 6:9-13

⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray:

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Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰ **Your kingdom come.**

Your will be done

On earth as *it is* in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

¹³ And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

¹⁴ For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Put on

We have to clothe ourselves with the new man *who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.*

Realize that what follows in V13 and 14, is a description of God's character. This is what makes you a new man.

These are the things that Jesus talked about during the sermon on the mount in Mat. 5: 1-48.

At the end He says, **V48, *Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.***

Instead now we learn to draw from His energy that so powerfully works in us. This then is the moment that we draw upon the love of God, which binds us in unity together and in perfection. This is what the church needs!

Peace of God

Did you notice how Paul draws the attention of the believers of the Colossian church to God's character? It is God's character that we could manifest and this is the hope of Glory that becomes visible right here on earth already. Not later when the Lord has called us but right now.

This will bring in the peace in church – V15, in your home and family but also in your work place and in yourself.



Put off

Repent, Col. 3:8-9

put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.



PUT On

V12-14

Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Guidelines for Christian Households

As the peace of God reigns among the members of His body, so it shall be in the Christian households. V18-21, **Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.**

¹⁹ **Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.**

²⁰ **Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.**

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

V18- This is God's order as He designed for His creation, Gen.1-3. Husband and Wife are one in God's eyes. However, it is the husband who carries the responsibility for the behavior of his wife, Gen. 3: 9 &17 as well as the family.

By the way, this is the requirement for an elder, Timothy 3: 4.

Eph. 5: 22-24, Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

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V19 – The words in Eph. 5: 25 & 28-29 come to my mind;

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

V20 – Eph. 6: 1-2, *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: ³ “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”*

V21 – Eph. 6: 4, *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

Other guidelines

Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for^[a] you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

Col. 4:1

Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

This is a rather difficult task for us. There are moments in our jobs, that we have to do things that are not so nice and it makes us feel uncomfortable and sometimes even angry and rebellious. The Lord offers us here a way out, do it as to the Lord and not for men. Doing the will of God from the heart. Even our serving in church is often not so nice! But things have to be done in proper order.

Waking up early to go to church is not so pleasant. Especially when one has a task to do and everything must start on time and in proper order.

Even when we feel that we are being pressured by the government. We need to leave it to the Lord.

Even in church there are overseers who are lording over the flock. Then what can we do? we could only pray and turn them over to the Lord that He will deal with them. It His Church

Col.4:1 – Eph. 6: 9, *And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that ^[a]your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.*