

“Let The Word of Christ Dwell IN You Richly”

Colossians 3:1-17

11-15-20

I. Theme Verse: Col. 1:27 *Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.*

II. How two words changed my view of God, how I read the Bible, and understand the Gospel. Remember Paul’s stated purpose in Col. 1:28b *“that we may present everyone mature in Christ.”* Spiritual maturity is the result of making CHANGES over time.

III. Why you need these two words “in Christ” to form your theology too:

1. Your theology needs to be rooted “in Christ” to deepen your relationship w/ God.
2. Parents need to teach “In Christ” theology to your kids (grandparents, etc. too).
3. People around you will misunderstand *God, the Bible and Jesus* without “in Christ”

IV. My theology incomplete without “in Christ”: God is holy. You are sinful. God gets angry at sinners and so he punishes them. He sent his son to punish him on the cross so you wouldn’t have to be punished for eternity. But he still gets angry at sin so he will punish you in this life when you sin. So you better stop sinning! (Hallelujah and Amen. Go with Jesus)

V. Apostle Paul spends Col. 1-2 teaching WHO God is “in Christ”, what He has done “in Christ”, and WHO we are “in Christ” BEFORE he gets to how to live.

- Without our “in Christ” identity we will miss our destiny.

VI. Text: Col. 3:1-11

VII. “In Christ” Theology Changes Everything

1. “In Christ” God is “Father” and we are His children

- a. 1:3 *“We always thank God, the **Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ...”*
- b. 1:12 *“... **Father** has qualified you to share the **inheritance** of the saints in light.”*
- c. **Without Jesus revealing God as “Father” we might think him angry, vindictive, and a punishing judge who only to be feared.**

2. “In Christ” Jesus fully reveals who God is – If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus! God looks like Jesus. We haven’t always know this but now we do.

- a. 1:15 *“He is the image of the invisible God*
- b. 2:9 *“In Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells in bodily form...”*

3. “In Christ” we read the Bible as the unfolding story leading to Jesus the Christ

- a. 1:25, 27 *“...to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations now revealed to his saints...Christ in you, the hope of glory.*
- b. **The O.T. writers did not have the full revelation of God so keep reading until you get to the Gospels!** Jesus is our guide for interpreting Scripture.

4. “In Christ” we view “Sin” in N.T. as anything that separates us from the Father with the power to hold us hostage until it destroys us in death.

- a. 2:8 *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits^[a] of the world, and not according to Christ.*

- b. **2:13** *“And you, who were dead in your trespasses...”*
- c. Sin is more than wrong behavior; it’s a powerful captor we need rescued from.

5. **“In Christ” the Gospel is Good News about our rescue from sin’s captivity;** God forgives us for alienating ourselves from the Father, and frees us from a Pharisee legalist relationship or a rebellious immature childish relationship with God. And it keeps getting richer & deeper into eternity.

- a. **1:13** *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,*
- b. **1:21** *And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him*

6. **“In Christ” we understand the “wrath of God” as the Father’s righteous passion to protect his children from destroying themselves and each other.**

- a. **3:5-8** *Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:^[b] sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming.^[c] ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.*
- b. **His anger is not for His sake or punishment for retribution, but to protect and restore us.**

- i. Our sinful anger destroys but God’s righteous anger restores.

7. **“In Christ” we are united by our identity as image bearers –**

- a. **3:11** *Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave,^[e] free; but Christ is all, and in all.*
- b. **Gen. 1:27** *“...in the image of God he created them... and it was very good”*
- c. **When our core identity is “rooted” in Christ our differences don’t define or divide us but display the beautiful diversity of the family of God.**
- d. 3:11 does not mean we are all the same but “in Christ” we can celebrate the differences and diversity!
 - i. Wouldn’t it be great to have more beauty and diversity in our church!
 - ii. We are praying and working toward that end:
 - iii. Summer “Be The Bridge” groups – 1st Christian, Rivertree, First Friends, e
 - iv. Staff/Elders attended “Absurd” Conf. in October – racial diversity in Body
 - v. “Oneness Embraced” Tony Evans (Right Now Media)
 - vi. Tuesday 6:15am prayer group for racial unity

VIII. How my “in Christ” theology has matured and how it can for you:

- **Col. 3:16** *Let 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.*
- 1. *“let the **word** of Christ **dwell** IN you richly – P.R.A.Y. Scripture*
- 2. *“as you **teach** and **admonish** one another **IN** all wisdom” – The Bible Project podcasts*
 - a. 6 part series on “Wrath of God”
- 3. *“singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God” – Pray one Psalm each day and keep a gratitude list*