

Colossians Study Week 8

Colossians 3:10-17

Being a Christian is a lifelong process of learning, growing and obeying. The more we get to know who Jesus is, the more we become like Him. We must fight the temptation of just getting by and staying stuck in our ways. Putting on our new self requires practice, patience, and relying on the Holy Spirit to keep in step with God's will. Are you ready to get to work?

*****Read Colossians 3:10-17*****

Again, what does it mean to put in your new self or new nature? It means that our actions and behaviors should match our faith. Like we said last week, if you call yourself a Christians... act like it! It's learning to just not make good decisions but make the right decisions. And as we learn to know God we learn to become like Him. And who is this new life and nature for? Everybody who believes! Jesus breaks down all barriers making way for all people that come to Him. With that in mind, we should share the good news of the Gospel with everybody! Christians should build bridges not walls.

- **What does it mean to put on your new self or new nature? Who do you need to share the gospel with?**

- Read the following verses and discuss how they are related
 - Ephesians 4:24
 - Romans 12:2
 - Romans 8:29
 - Ephesians 2:10
 - 1 Corinthians 7:19
 - Galatians 5:6
 - Acts 28:2

Read Colossians 3:12-17

Paul's gives us a strategy to help us live for Jesus every day! We will break down the next six verses and look at how Paul says we are to become like Jesus.

- **In what aspect of your life do you have the hardest time living like Jesus? (Work, home, friends)**

Paul's strategy to help us daily live for Jesus.

- **1. Imitate Jesus: Colossians 3:12-13**
 - We must imitate and learn to live with Jesus' forgiving and compassionate attitude. The key to forgiving others is remembering how much acid has forgiven you! Do you struggle forgiving people or struggle forgiving somebody who has hurt you, when God has forgiven you of so much? Remembering this can help us forgive those who have hurt us.
 - Ephesians 4:24
 - Galatians 5:22
 - Philippians 2:1
 - Ephesians 4:2
 - Romans 15:7
- **2. Let love guide: Colossians 3:14**
 - Let love guide your life! All of these things that Paul is encouraging us to develop are held together by love. As we learn to live like Jesus, love must be the thing that holds all of them together. If we practice any of these things that Paul instructs us and we forget about love, all will be for nothing.
 - Ephesians 4:3
 - John 17:23
 - Hebrews 16:1
 - Ephesians 5:2
 - 1 Corinthians 13:3
- **3. Let peace rule your heart: Colossians 3:15**
 - As believers in Jesus we should live in peace. This does not mean the absence of conflict or differences of opinion, but means that we work in love despite the differences we may have. This kind of peace and love is not a feeling but a choice we make every day. To live in love leads to peace in the body of Christ. Do you struggle to live in peace with other believers? Do you find yourself in constant conflict with other Christians? What does it mean to let the peace rule in our hearts?
 - Ephesians 2:16
 - John 14:27
 - John 16:33
 - Romans 5:1

- Isaiah 26:3
 - Philippians 4:6-7
 - Philippians 4:9
- **4. Be thankful: Colossians 3:15**
 - Are you somebody who sees the glass half full or half empty? Are you only thankful when things are going well, or does thankfulness flow from you at all times? This is something that doesn't necessarily come natural, but we have to work and practice at it. What are you thankful for? Start saying these things daily to help shift your focus.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:18
 - Ephesians 5:20
 - Psalm 100:4
 - Colossians 4:2
 - Psalm 106:1
 - Psalm 107:1
 - Psalm 28:7
 - Psalm 69:30
 - Psalm 95:2
- **5. Know the word: Colossians 3:16**
 - We live in a time where much of the church is biblically illiterate. Meaning... we just don't know or understand the Bible. During the time Paul wrote this letter, Bibles were not in circulation or made for that matter. So the men and women of this time would memorize scripture, set it to music and even wrote books or verses on things to carry with them. We must study the Bible and fall in love with God's word. How often do you read the Bible? Are you actually studying the Bible?
 - Romans 10:17
 - Ephesians 5:26
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:8
 - Colossians 1:28
 - Psalm 119:105
 - Proverbs 6:23
- **6. Represent Jesus: Colossians 3:17**
 - To represent Jesus means to bring honor to Him with every aspect of our lives. We represent Jesus 24/7, not just on Sundays or when we feel like it. Whatever you say, whatever you do, wherever you go, if you call yourself a Christian you represent Jesus a Christ. What impression do people have of Jesus when they see or talk with you? What do you need to change in your life to bring honor to God?

- 1 Corinthians 10:31
- 2 Corinthians 5:20
- 1 Peter 2:9
- Ephesians 4:1-3