

CENTERED:

Focusing Your Life on Christ

Colossians 3:1-17



1. WARM UP

- If you look at the news and media, what topics and issues get the most coverage today?
- What are the things that you think about most often?
- How do you think that our perspective influences our behavior?
- Do you think that a Christ-centered worldview should change the way you live your life?

2. DIVE IN

Read Colossians 3:1-17: In this section of the letter the Apostle Paul brings up some practical application for the Christ-centered life. It starts with your perspective and moves into behavior. A list of decentering behaviors are listed in the first section followed by a list of behaviors and virtues which are the fruit of a Christ centered life.

- What is the focus of verses 1-4? What are we commanded to keep doing?
- How does he tie together our identity in Christ with our need to stay focused in these verses?
- What does he mean when he says put to death in verse 5? Why does he say this? [6]
- What is the nature of the sins mentioned in verse 5? What is the nature of the sins mentioned in verses 8-9?
- What does the put off/put on language in 8-9 parallel earlier in this passage [5]?
- What is the focus of verses 10-11? How does this relate to the commands in 1-3?
- Notice again the focus on identity in verse 12: what are the behaviors of Christ-centered people of God according to verses 12-14?
- What is binding agent for Christ centered behavior and virtues [14]?
- How do we consistently live out a Christ-centered life according to verses 15 and 16?
- What is the final word on Christ-centered living according to verse 17?

3. REFLECT

How do I keep seeking and keep thinking about Christ and my identity in Him? What are ways we should train and discipline our thinking to remain centered in our perspective?

What aspects of my sinful nature do I need to put to death in order live out a Christ-centered life?

How does my speech and language reflect the presence of Christ in my life? Am I truthful in my all my communication?

How does Christ change the way we should view others according to verse 11?

The Christ-centered life is presented as a list of virtues we put on like clothing in 12-14. What is the focus of these virtues, especially in the context of a letter being read to a whole church and not to individuals?

Notice the use of heart in verses 12, 15, and 16. What role does our heart play in being Christ-centered?

Who is the focus of our actions and words according to verse 7? What is the attitude he ends the section with at the end of verse 17? Is this a habitual practice in your life?

CENTERED:**Focusing Your Life on Christ
Colossians 3:1-17****4. APPLY**

What patterns of thinking have I allowed in my life which would draw me away from a Christ-centered perspective? How can I refocus my life on things above as a habitual practice?

How often do I dwell on my position in Christ where my life is hidden with Christ in God where I will be revealed in glory with Him? Spend time in praise and worship and giving glory to Christ for these wonderful truths.

In reading this passage what habits and practices in my life do I need to put to death and put off? How does my outward life and my speech reflect the Centrality of Christ in my life?

Do I have a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience? Would those closest to me identify these as habitual behaviors in my life?

Have I welcomed the peace of Christ to rule over my heart? Does the word of Christ have a deep presence in my life and in my interactions with my fellow believers?

Do I have a singular focus to glorify God in all I do as a reflection of my Christ-centered commitment?

5. PRAY

Pray for a Christ-centered perspective on life an ability to see our lives not from an earthly viewpoint, but from Gods viewpoint.

Pray for purity in our lives in our actions and in our speech.

Pray that we could cloth ourselves with Christs virtues with love as the glue that holds us together.

Pray that the peace of Christ would rule in our hearts and that the word of Christ would dwell in us richly.