

Colossians 3: 11-17

*Apostle Paul now will explain that there is only one place where racial, national, social, and economic distinctions can be settled and erased in the Body of Christ Church in this present dispensation of grace.

Colossians 3:11 “Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.”

1. [there is neither Greek nor Jew,] =No racial distinctions.
 - a. God has put away the man-made barriers that divide people. Differences of nationality, religion, culture, and social distinctions are now not the things that count.
 - b. Paul emphasizes that there is no distinction between the Gentile and the Jew. Both are on the same level with God.

2. [circumcision nor uncircumcision] =No religious distinctions.
 - a. As part of the mystery truth, we Gentiles have been made spiritually equal with the Jews in the Body church. We no longer have to go through Israel’s favored status to have a relationship with God as it was in “time past.”

Ephesians 2:12-13

- b. Remember, physically, there are still Gentiles and Jews, but spiritually in God’s eyes we are equally one and God sees no distinctions today.

- c. Religiously, this shows that the Jews today have to be saved just like a Gentile. All people are born sinners and need to be saved through Christ’s Gospel of grace dispensation.

1st Corinthians 15:1-4

3. [Barbarian, Scythian] = No cultural distinction.
 - a. Barbarians in Paul's time were those who were not Greeks necessarily - but were rude, rough, and harsh people.
 - b. The Scythians were considered the wildest of the Barbarians. Scythia was north of the Black and the Caspian Sea. Many believe they were of Russian descent, and the most barbaric the world has ever known.

4. [bond nor free] = No social distinctions.
 - a. In Paul's day, it was common for households to have slaves who would not have the same privileges as the upper elite.
 - b. Roman slavery was not based on race. Almost anyone could become a slave either by being prisoners of war, children of enslaved mothers, or people sold into slavery during times of extreme poverty, trying to survive.
 - c. Roman historians generally agree that slaves made up a massive portion of the empire's population.

5. [but Christ is all, and in all.] = No distinctions matter.
 - a. In Christ, these distinctions no longer matter. All social and economic barriers are removed, and we are united as brothers and sisters in the family of Christ. We share one Master, and He alone deserves first place in our lives.
 - b. Christ is the catalyst who brings together individuals and groups who are separated, but all are accepted of each other as we are in Christ.

Galatians 3:27

Colossians 3:12 "Put on therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering:"

1. [Put on therefore] Paul mentions our identity in Christ.
 - a. Because of whom we are "in Christ" and God's viewpoint of us, we need to "put on" godly traits. Paul mentions some of these things in verse 12.
 - b. Paul said that we have put on the new man by dressing ourselves with a new wardrobe of who we are now.

2. [as the elect of God]. We have been chosen in Christ.
 - a. The fact is that if you have trusted Christ, you have this new garment and you are one of the elect. The elect of God is clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

- b. The garments Paul is mentioning here are actually the fruits of the Holy Spirit he mentions in Galatians 5.

Galatians 5:22-23:

- 3. [holy and beloved] We have been set apart.
 - a. Holy means being sanctified and we use the same word “saints”. We have been set apart from the sinful condition of the human race, being dominated by Satan, the world, and our flesh.
 - b. To be “beloved” means we have been given to be objects of God’s love. This gives us a desire to please Him in every way.

2nd Thessalonians 2:13

- 4. [bowels of mercies] This shows our image.
 - a. Bowels of mercies mean having a heart of compassion for others. We know how heartless the world can be today. As believers, we should show compassion in relationship with those around us, using the Fruits of the Spirit listed.

Colossians 3:13

“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

- 1. [Forbearing one another] describes the patience we should have with the eccentric ways of our brethren.
 - a. This does not mean that you become a doormat, but we’re to go to the individual and try to work out the matter and help support or encourage them.
 - b. There are always going to be some people with whom you cannot work it out, but we are to try and reconcile with them.
- 2. [and forgiving one another, if any man has a quarrel]
 - a. We will have quarrels, differences of opinion, and unhappy situations, because we are human. We are not to allow it to destroy our relationships.
 - b. There is a difference between “forbearance” and “forgiveness” :
Forbearance suggests our not taking offense.
Forgiveness means not holding on to it.
 - c. By forgiving in grace, it is over and done. It also shows the difference between our Dispensation of Grace and the conditional forgiveness under the Kingdom Program.

(Kingdom Program)

Matthew 6:14-15 “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; But if ye forgive no men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

(Grace Program)

Ephesians 4:32 “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

- d. Christ has forgiven us without a cause, so we are to forgive others in the same way that Christ has forgiven us.

Colossians 3:14 “And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”

1. “Love” is the foundation of the Christian life. It is the glue which binds all the other virtues together in order to make up perfection.

1st Corinthians 13:13 “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity (love).”

- a. Paul emphasizes that what we do must be done in a genuine spirit of love for our brethren.

2nd Corinthians 5:14 “For the love of Christ constrained us; because thus judge, that if one died for all, then we are all dead.”

- b. The Gnostics thought of knowledge as the bond of perfection, but Paul corrects this view by saying that love is the bond of perfection. Perfection means you have “spiritual maturity”.

Colossians 3:15 “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body, and be ye thankful.”

1. [And let the peace of God rule in your hearts]

- a. The peace of God should act as an umpire in our hearts. This verse is helpful when seeking guidance from the Lord. It means to help us decide, to determine, what we are to do by God’s Word.

Philippians 4:7 “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

b. This peace is to carry over into our relationship with other believers in Christ. [to which also ye are called in one body;].

1st Corinthians 1:9-10

c. We are to be thankful. Paul repeats this over and over in all of his writings. Paul shows that it is a grace to be thankful for all He has provided to us.

Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

1. We see three sections to this verse:

First We are to let the word of Christ dwell (to be at home) in us richly. This refers to the teachings of Christ found in the Holy Bible.

1st Timothy 6:3 “If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the word of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

Second that in all wisdom, we should be teaching and admonishing one another. Teaching has to do with doctrine, whereas admonishing has to do with duty - how it applies to everyday life.

Third, in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Psalms describe the musical ministry and were Israel’s songbook. Hymns are generally understood as songs of worship and praise to God the Father. Spiritual songs are a broad category of all religious songs.

We are to sing with a heart attitude of grace, to freely give ourselves to worship and praise with thanksgiving to God.

2nd Corinthians 9:15 “Thanks to unto God for his unspeakable gifts.”

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Colossians 3:17 “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

1. Paul gives us a great principle here in this verse. Since we are doing it in the name of Christ, our behavior is to thank God for the privilege of serving Him. Our goal should be to please Him and not to men.

2. Once again, the Apostle Paul uses the word “Thanks” to close out this verse.

1st Corinthians 10:31 - “Whether therefore ye eat, of drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”