

Free To Love

In the letter to the Colossian church, Paul writes to confront an error that had crept into the church. He calls the error (2:8) empty and deceptive philosophy based on the traditions of men and basic principles of the world rather than Christ. This teaching was legalistic in that they ate only certain foods and observed special days – works. Paul writes to re-emphasize the supremacy of Christ and the supreme opportunity based on our position in Him.

Ch 1 – Pre-eminence of Christ – 1:15-20

Ch 2 – Position in Christ – 2:9-15, 20

Ch 3 – Practical Life in Christ

- 3:1-4 – Practice based on position
- 3:5-8 – Negative – Take off old man
- 3:9-11 – Summary – Take off / Put on
- 3:12-17 – Positive – Put on new man

3:12 – Therefore – the argument has been made that our position in the supreme Person of the universe has empowered us and obligated us to take off the old way. For those who take off the old beliefs/behaviors, there is the capacity to live out new beliefs/behaviors.

3:12 – as chosen ones of God – *eklektos* – the ones picked out

- God picked you to live with Him forever – we did not choose God, He chose us
- Election in Christ – God chooses all who trust in Christ Eph 1:4 – chosen in Him

3:12 – holy – *hagios* – made +R in Christ – Col 1:12 – having made us fit, worthy

- At point of salvation, God made us worthy to live with Him forever
- We are not required nor are we even able to make ourselves worthy of God
- Imputed +R à eternal worthiness eliminates all need for human works - Grace Inc

3:12 – beloved – P.F.Ptc *agapao* – having been loved in the past resulting in a complete state of being permanently, eternally loved by God

- Loved in eternity past; brought into a perfect state of love today & forever
- Who are you? God's beloved; What characterizes you? You are God's beloved
- Who you are no longer: rejected, abandoned, alone, unwanted, hopeless
Specifics about who we are in Christ - how it changes our identity and capacities

3:12 - Put on A.M.Imp *enduo* – clothe your soul – adopt a belief; see your new identity

Mt 6:25 – literal clothing; Lk 24:49 – GHS; Rom 13:12 – armor of light; Gal 3:27 B/HS, i.e. put on Christ; Eph 6:11-14 – armor of God; Eph 4:24, Col 3:10 – new man

- Col 3:5-9a take off the old man and his practices – reject old beliefs/behaviors
- Col 3:9b-17 put on new man and his practices – adopt new beliefs/behaviors

Virtues:

Compassion – feeling of mercy and concern for the suffering of others

Kindness – *chrestotes* – useful, helpful, benevolent,

Humility – *tapeinaphrosune* – realistic sense of one's helplessness & unworthiness

Meekness – *praus* – gentle, unassuming, considerate, respectful

Patient – *makrothumia* – refusal to retaliate in the face of provocation

3:13 – forbearing one another - *anecho* – firm, unmoving, bear with others, tolerant

3:13 – Forgiving one another – *charizomai* – releasing from a debt owed

3:13 - If (3cc) anyone has a complaint

3:13 – just as the Lord forgave you – He indeed had a complaint

- New man à Fruits of GHS (virtues) à we have to choose their use
- GHS makes these virtues available à build momentum

3:14 – over all these – love – agape – mind-set that edifies unconditionally

3:14 – bond of completeness – chain that ties all the virtues together

- Love is the mind-set that pulls all virtue into a system for application

Our position in the pre-eminent Christ is the foundation for our practical function

Ch 1 – Pre-eminence of Christ – Eph 1:21 – over angels; Phi 2:9 – name above all names

Ch 2 – Position in Christ – 1Cor 12:13 – baptized into Christ – 50 things at salvation

Ch 3 – Practical Life in Christ – take off old – put on the new

The OM belief system (5-11) is focused on self through things of the earth

3:1-2 – pursue & focus on the things above, not things on the earth

3:5-7 – members (body parts) fornication; 3:8-9 – mental – anger malice, verbal

- Order/discussion – mental & verbal sins result from frustrated desire Jms 4:1-3
- OM misinterprets desires as needs à strategies/pursuit à frustration à anger
- Believer enslaved to pursuit of desire/anger is unable to give to others
- OM beliefs create desire/demand à anger/verbal abuse à destroy relationships

Our position in Christ has intimately connected us to the source of all our needs.

3:12 – chosen of God – picked out, included, accepted – no pursuit needed

3:12 – Holy - +R, worthy, qualified, made fit – no good works needed

3:12 – beloved – Pf Pass – totally loved w/out merit – no giving to get – Rom 5:4

- NM has no need to pursue acceptance, worthiness or love – already provided
- NM accepts the reality of met needs and is empowered to give out of overflow
- NM is able to give Christian virtues – compassion, kindness, etc consistently

Love is a mind-set that gives unconditional regard and only edifies – never harms

3:14 – bond of completeness – *sundesmos* – chain, binding – binds together

- The mid-set of love is the commitment to relate only to edify others
- This mind-set empowered by GHS binds all Christian virtues into a system
- Love is the completeness – compassion, kindness... are the components
- A mind-set of love enables the virtues to be on-line and constantly available