

Let's Worship God

25th-30th March 2019
Colossians



Colossians

Monday - Colossians 3:5-11; James 3:1-12 - Dealing With The Heart

The apostle Paul had given general instructions to the believers about how they were to deal with their own sinful nature, and he follows that up by being specific about the vices that are to be rejected.

There are two lists that are given in these verses, both containing five things. The first list in verse 5 describes the individual as he is in himself, and the second in verse 8 characterises him in his relation to other people.

What must be dealt with first is the heart. If the members of the body are devoted to immoral and impure things, it is because the heart is not right with God. Selfishness and greed will lead to a person desiring more and more to satisfy his own lusts and to make an idol of them; 'If I have only enough of this, I shall be satisfied; it is my real aim, my sufficient good, that thing is a god to me, and my real worship is paid to it, whatever may be my nominal religion'. Alexander MacLaren.

The self-centredness that led to this kind of immorality was a part of their old lives when the wrath of God was upon them, but now that they have a new life in Christ, their behaviour is to be radically different. They are to 'lay aside' their 'old self' and its practices. This again focuses attention on the heart. If the heart is right with God, then there will be a right attitude towards our fellow man. The Christian should not be known as an angry, hasty man whose words are spiteful, harmful or deceitful. These are all manifestations of a life without Christ. 'For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart'. Matthew 12:34.

Questions

1. Gossip is so prevalent even in church circles - how can we make sure that our words are always helpful?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that your words would be helpful.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Praise: Psalm 69 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Tuesday - Colossians 3:10-11; Romans 7:14-25 - True Knowledge

Although the Christian has 'put on the new self' when he was converted, the 'old self' is still with him Rom.7:14 - 25, and so this new life within him needs to be constantly renewed. This is the ongoing work of sanctification in the life of the Christian.

There are many aspects of the work of sanctification, but Paul sums them up in this passage by saying that the renewal that takes place is 'to a true knowledge' according to God's image. The Colossian heretics were insisting that believers needed some kind of mystical knowledge obtained through secret passwords and rituals, but Paul demonstrates that the knowledge that pleases God is one that enables the Christian to be more conformed to the image of Christ. This kind of knowledge comes through a constant study of the revelation that God has given to man in the Holy Scriptures, and a firm desire that with the help of the Holy Spirit, the teaching of the Word will be put into practice in the life. The object is that Christ will increasingly be formed in the life of the believer.

As the child of God sees himself becoming more and more like Jesus, he will realise that all the barriers of religion, race, culture and society, that are so important to the men of the world, have absolutely no place in his life. The Lord Jesus Christ gave his life for rich and poor, slave and free, educated and illiterate and all who are His people are brothers and sisters adopted into the family of God.

Christ as the all-sufficient Saviour and Lord is all that matters, and his Spirit indwelling all believers, no matter what their race or culture, is renewing his people in true knowledge 'according to the image of the one who created them'.

Questions

1. Where do we find knowledge to help us be like Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would put God's Word into practice in your life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Praise: Psalm 70 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Wednesday - Colossians 3:12-17 - A Compassionate Heart

It is very easy for a person to claim to be what he really is not! Paul here tells the believers that they are to be in practice what they have professed to be. A person who says that he is a Christian is one who professes to have been chosen by God in eternity, and Paul says that the evidence of that is that they 'put on' or clothe themselves with certain characteristics.

A true believer will have the same heart of compassion that was evident in the Lord Jesus Christ as he looked on men as sheep without a shepherd and was 'moved with compassion'. This is a deep concern for the welfare of others and will show itself in four characteristics:

1. Kindness. The exact opposite of the 'malice' spoken of in verse 8. During his life on earth, the Lord Jesus Christ went about doing good, and this same kindness and concern for the welfare of others should be present in the believer.

2. Humility. There is no greater example of true humility than that of the Lord Jesus Christ who humbled himself and took on the form of a servant for the sake of his own people. Those that follow him must also show that same humbleness of mind that will consider others better than themselves. Phil. 2:3,4.

3. Meekness. This does not speak of weakness or of somebody not willing to stand up for principle, but rather of a willingness to be submissive under great provocation, and to be prepared to suffer injury rather than to inflict it.

4. Longsuffering or Patience. If the child of God is to be prepared to suffer injury, he is also to be prepared to endure it over an extended period without reacting adversely.

When there is genuine compassion in the heart, these elements will be evident.

Questions

1. What elements of these qualities you can observe in your own life?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would have a heart of compassion.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Praise: Psalm 71 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Thursday - Colossians 3:12-14; Luke 7:40-50 - Forgiveness

When Peter asked the Lord Jesus Christ how many times he should forgive his brother he was told that forgiveness was to be without limit, 'seventy times seven'. Matthew 18:21,22. This should not be surprising for forgiveness is at the very heart of the Christian faith. It is precisely because God forgives his people in the Lord Jesus Christ, that sinful men and women can have any hope for heaven. Just as the Lord has forgiven us so we are to forgive those who offend us v.13.

The heart of compassion must be accompanied by a heart of forgiveness. Not only is the Christian not to react to provocation, he is to be willing to wipe the offenses from his mind. The apostle Paul highlights three aspects of the forgiveness that is necessary.

1. There is to be a tolerance of the weakness of others. It is sometimes hard to put up with people who annoy us or who 'rub us up' the wrong way, and yet this is what we are required to do. If we remember that perhaps our personality or attitudes annoy other people, we would be more likely to 'bear with one another'.

2. How often do Christians say, 'I could never forgive him/her for that'? It may be that somebody has deeply hurt us or offended us, and yet the Scripture here tells us that 'whatever grievances' are to be forgiven. Forgiveness can never be partial or half-hearted.

3. Just as Christ has forgiven us, so must we forgive others. When Jesus was teaching his disciples to pray he said 'forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors'. The forgiveness that we receive from God is full and free; all the sins of God's people have been 'cast into the depths of the sea' Micah 7:19, and as He has dealt with us, so we must deal with others.

Questions

1. If there is unforgiven resentment against anyone, how can you put it right?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would have a forgiving heart.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Praise: Psalm 72 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Friday - Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Corinthians 13 - Love

There is perhaps no word in the English language that is so misused and abused as the word love. It is used as a cloak for lust and every kind of wickedness, and yet it is the most wonderful characteristic that a human being can possess because it is a reflection of the God who is love 1 John 4: 8.

Paul here tells the believers that beyond all the wonderful things that he had been speaking about, the believer was to 'put on love'. It is love that is 'the lubricant that enables other virtues to function smoothly'. William Hendriksen.

The love of which the apostle speaks is a derivative love, it comes from the God whose very nature is love. This love is something that is not natural to man, it is that love that is 'shed abroad' in the heart by the Holy Spirit Rom.5:5 and overflows in the life of the believer 1 Thess. 3:12.

It is because a sinner has experienced the great love of God in Jesus Christ and has the new nature that comes from God, that he is able to respond and to demonstrate something of that love in his own daily life. It is this love that is able to bind believers together in spite of differences of personality, race, and background.

Paul is telling the Colossians that it was not the philosophy, knowledge, and observance of human regulations taught by the false teachers, that would deepen their spiritual lives, but rather the love of God that was in their hearts and which was being demonstrated by their love for one another.

We must never forget that the one thing that really impressed pagan society about the early Christians was not their knowledge of doctrine or even their zeal for the Lord, it was their love for one another (Tertullian, about 200AD), just as Jesus said in John 13:35.

Questions

1. In what practical ways can we show our love for others?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would show love for others.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Praise: Psalm 73 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Saturday - Colossians 3:14; John 14:16-31 - Peace

The Lord Jesus Christ left a wonderful legacy to his own disciples when He said to them 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you'; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.' John 14:27. This is the peace of knowing that the sin that separates from God has been forgiven; the present circumstances of life are under the control of the sovereign and loving God, and the future is safe and secure in the place that God has prepared.

This peace, says the apostle, is to rule in the heart. The idea behind the word 'rule' is that of an umpire or an arbitrator at the games; somebody who looks on to make sure that the competitors act fairly within the rules. The peace of God in the heart acts like an umpire in the sense that when any thought, word, or action is tending to disturb our peace and take our minds from focusing on Christ, it is to be avoided. 'There is nothing so precious that it is worth while to lose the peace of Christ for the sake of it'. Alexander MacClaren.

This peace is not just individual, it also has a social or corporate aspect. Believers are called to be a part of the body of Christ and the members of that body are to live in peace and harmony with one another. Psalm 133. Such peace and harmony can be encouraged when there is thankfulness for all that God has done. It is very difficult to be overwhelmed with gratitude for all the goodness that we have received for the hand of God, and then to feel upset or annoyed because somebody else appears to have more than us!

Questions

1. How can we be more aware of the peace of God in our hearts and how can we encourage peace and harmony in our own fellowship?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Praise: Psalm 74 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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