

Lesson 10

Put on New Characteristics

Colossians 3:1-17, with emphasis on 12-17

May 5, 2021

In 3:1-4 Paul begins to apply the doctrine of the supremacy of Christ to our experiential sanctification. In verse 1, since Christ is supreme and we have been positionally raised up with Him in the heavens, we should keep seeking the things above and in verse 2, keep thinking the things above, not earthly things. In verse 3, when you believed in Christ your old person died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God in heaven. In verse 4, while still experientially here on earth, one day Christ, who is our life, will be revealed in His resurrection body. At that time you will be revealed with Him in your resurrection body.

In 3:5-9, Paul tells us we need to put to death the old sin nature that is at work in the members of our earthly body. In verse 5, the sin nature produces immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. In verse 6, it is because of these things that the wrath of God is now coming upon unbelievers, and in verse 7, we used to do these same things when we lived among them, but verse 8, we should also put aside anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech. Verse 9, don't lie. Why? Because you laid aside the old person with its evil practices when you believed in Christ and in verse 10 you put on the new person who is in the process of being renewed to true knowledge so we are transformed into Christ-likeness. In verse 11, this process of renewal is the same for all believers, we are all on the same spiritual footing.

In 3:10-17, Paul tells us to put on new behavior; a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, which is expanded in verse 13 as bearing with one another and forgiving each other. If you have a complaint against someone, forgive them, just as the Lord had complaints against you and forgave you. But most importantly, in v 14, put on love, because that is what brings unity. In verse 15 let peace rule, that's a wisdom principle. In verse 15 be thankful. In verse 16, let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, another wisdom principle, which manifests itself through teaching, admonishing, and singing in your hearts to God. And finally, verse 17, whatever you do, another wisdom principle, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, which means in terms that are in harmony with Scripture, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Doctrine

- Doctrine of experiential sanctification (3:1-15; esp 5-17). How to grow spiritually by keeping on desiring things above and keeping on thinking about things above.
- Doctrine of perseverance (3:1). You have to persevere, keep desiring the things above in order to move to maturity. It's a lifelong process. Don't give up, don't quit, keep going!
- Doctrine of positional resurrection (3:1, 3). We've been raised up with Christ. If our spiritual resurrection is a positional reality, then the future physical resurrection is guaranteed. Still we don't have it, so we hope.

- Doctrine of the pre-trib rapture (3:4). Whenever Christ appears, and we don't know when that will be, we will appear with Him in glory. Because this can happen whenever, the timing is pre-tribulational.
- Doctrine of ultimate sanctification (3:4). We will receive a glorified or resurrected body like Christ's
- Doctrine of the sin nature (3:5). The sin nature is at work in the members of our body to cause us to commit sin.
- Doctrine of present wrath (3:6) God's wrath is presently being poured out on unbelievers because of their sin.
- Doctrine of old person/new person (3:9-10). The old person is the person you were in Adam. This is no longer who you are. The new person is the person you are in Christ.
- Doctrine of experiential sanctification (3:10). The new person is to be renewed to true knowledge that leads toward transformation into Christ-likeness.
- Doctrine of experiential sanctification (3:12-14). The new person is to be clothed with new characteristics that are befitting Christ-likeness, the greatest of which is love.
- Doctrine of experiential sanctification (3:15-17). Peace is a wisdom principle in decision making. It helps us decide the best course of action. The word of God within us richly is also a wisdom principle in decision making. It helps us decide the best course of action. Considering what is most appropriate in light of the Lord Jesus is a third wisdom principle in decision making. It helps us decide the best course of action.