

**Throw Away the Clothes of Disunity!
No More Prejudice!
Col 3:8-11 Part 2**

I. Introduction

A. Let's turn to and read our Passage for Today (focus = 3:11, but read vv.1-11)

Col 3: 1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. **3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. **5** Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. **6** For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, **7** and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. **8** But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, **10** and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— **11** a *renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

B. As you know – V.11 is our next verse in the book of Colossians

1. Been teaching verse-by-verse through the book!
2. ONLY the providence of God could bring us to 3:11 today!
3. This past week our country
 - a) Elected our first black president in Barack Obama
 - b) Might've elected our first woman VP.
 - c) HUGE history has been made for this country

C. Today – Paul talks about PREJUDICE and Christians!

D. Paul's point today: NO MORE PREJUDICE!

1. RESULT of Renewal = No Prejudice
2. Prejudice is NORMAL and clearly evident in the world!
 - a) So clear that Paul can teach by examples! (Greek/Jew, etc.)
 - b) And, something Paul covers often in Scripture

E. Proposition: Today STUDY the RESULT of THROWING AWAY the CLOTHES of DISUNITY!

II. Review 3:5-7 Stop Worshipping Yourself!

A. Requirement – Stop Worshipping Yourself

1. "Therefore" =
 - a) Since you have died with Christ
 - b) Since you have risen with Christ
 - c) Since Christ IS your Life
 - d) Since you focus on Christ
2. consider the members of your earthly body as dead
 - a) Verb: Literally = "put to death"

- (1) = DO IT NOW COMMAND
- (2) Put them to death NOW!
- b) the members of your earthly body
 - (1) = figure of speech known as a metonym
 - (2) Paul-- "PUT TO DEATH the following list of things!"
- 3. Key to this list: Order is from
 - a) ACTIONS to ATTITUDES
 - b) EXTERNALS to INTERNALS
- 4. Immorality, Impurity, Passion, Evil Desire
- 5. and greed, which amounts to idolatry
 - (1) Greed = covetousness
 - (2) = wanting what is forbidden
 - (3) Wanting MORE than WHAT I HAVE – ESPECIALLY when belongs to someone else!
 - b) which amounts to idolatry
 - (1) Greed is TIED to idolatry with is at the BOTTOM of our DEEPS INTERNAL PROBLEMS!
 - (2) What is idolatry? = SELF-WORSHIP!
 - c) ONLY have TWO choices for what you ULTIMATELY WORSHIP: Worship God OR Worship SELF
 - d) SIN STARTS in IDOLATRY
 - (1) Sin = SELF-WORSHIP
 - (2) MY way is BETTER than God's WAY
 - (3) I OBEY ME / I worship ME / I GLORIFY me!
- 6. KEY: FIRST thing MUST DO/ALWAYS DO as a Christian
 - a) WORSHIP CHRIST
 - b) STOP WORSHIPING SELF

B. The Reasons 3:6-7

Col 3:6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

- 1. TWO parallel clauses
- 2. These sins bring the wrath of God!
 - a) Paul- WHY would you do ANYTHING that God hates SO MUCH He will PUNISH it NOW and ETERNALLY!
- 3. These sins belong to an unbeliever!
 - a) These sins CHARACTERIZED your past as an unbeliever" – leave them there!

III. THROW AWAY the CLOTHES of DISUNITY

Col 3:8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, **10** and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— **11** *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.*

A. The Requirement

1. But now you also put them all aside
 - a) = Clothing metaphor -Take off / never wear again!
2. The list!
 - a) ATTITUDES: Anger, Wrath, Malice
 - b) ACTIONS: Slander, Abusive Speech, Lying
 - c) Work from Inside → out! (previously outside→ In)

3. The Three ATTITUDES of DISUNITY

4. Anger, wrath
 - a) “Anger” = REASONED anger
 - (1) = Anger that COMES from VIOLATING your PRINCIPLES, BELIEFS, VIEWS, EXPECTATIONS
 - b) Wrath= RAGE anger
 - (1) = INSTANT NUCLEAR EXPLOSION
 - (2) = Road Rage, “losing it” RAGE
 - (3) NEVER tolerated for a Christian!
5. Malice
 - a) General term for evil = NASTY EVIL
 - b) When Paul puts this in the list, you know he’s covered ALL bad attitudes!

6. Then THREE ACTIONS of DISUNITY...

7. Slander = “to talk down”
 - a) = backbiting, disparaging remarks, evil speaking BEHIND a PERSON’S BACK
8. Abusive speech = Obscene / filthy talk MEANT TO HURT
9. Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another...
 - a) LYING = ALL FORMS of VERBAL DECEPTION!
 - (1) Plain lie – black vs. white
 - (2) Shade the truth – Grey vs. white!
 - (3) Exaggerate
 - (4) Silent when the truth should be spoken!

B. The REASONS

Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

1. Reasons = You're dead to sin / You're SAVED and becoming like Christ!
 - a) Lying is associated with your old life!
 - b) You're becoming like Christ!
2. Col 3:9 since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices
 - a) Paul: Stop lying since IT IS ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR OLD LIFE!
3. who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—
 - a) "who is" = the new self
 - b) "being renewed" is a VERY rich word!
 - (1) Literally: "the one which is ever being renewed"
 - (2) = continual
 - (3) = PASSIVE = We're NOT the ones doing the renewal – GOD IS!
 - (4) This renewal is what we call "sanctification" or "progressive sanctification"
 - 2 Co 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
 - (5) What's the PURPOSE of this renewal?
 - c) to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—
 - (1) "true knowledge" = deep knowledge!
 - (a) True knowledge of what?
 - (2) according to the image of the One who created him—
 - (a) = Jesus Christ!
 - (3) Point-We're being transformed into the image of Jesus Christ
 - (4) Here – Paul focuses on the transformation of our knowledge =Christ-like knowledge!
 - (5) BUT – overall POINT of the v.9-10 is what?
 - (a) Key – what do you get with a full, complete, super-deep knowledge of Christ?
 - (b) A: YOU KNOW HIS WILL
 - (c) Then you know That this stuff must go AND Christ-like stuff must be put on!

IV. New: The RESULT: No MORE PREJUDICES!

11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

A. The Context:

Col 3:11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between

1. OK – first notice – A LOT of ITALICS!
 - a) = words added / Not in original Greek Text
 - b) Not bad, just needs explaining!
2. Greek = “where there is no being (in)”
3. SO, reading v.10 to v.11

10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— 11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between [where there is no being] Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.
4. Paul In the new man/body of Christ, THERE IS NO DISTINCTION IN HUMAN TERMS
5. Removal of ALL HUMAN barriers / classifications / etc.
6. NO PREJUDICE!

B. The Many Prejudices:

C. Racial Prejudices: Greek and Jew,

1. Order usually Jew then Greek
2. Here – Colossae mostly Greek – so first!
3. Probably GREATEST Barrier of the time!
4. Jew saw world SIMPLY as Jew and Greek! – Us and them!
5. BUT – Scripture is CLEAR and LOGICAL on this point:
6. Q: Who created nations? Turn to Acts 17:24

Ac 17: 22 So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. 23 “For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. 24 “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,

- a) SO – God created ALL people and ALL Nations!
7. AND – what happens at Salvation?
 - a) First, Eph 2 happens!

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by

abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances*, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus establishing peace*,

(1) ONE NEW MAN =

- (a) New in QUALITY
- (b) NOT Greek becomes Jew
- (c) NOT Jew + something
- (d) ALL NEW

(2) WHAT is established? PEACE!

- (a) Peace WITH GOD
- (b) Peace between God's children!

b) Second, 1 Cor 12:13 happens!

1 Co 12:12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. **13** For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

(1) 1 Cor 12:13 = SPIRITUAL BAPTISM

- (a) At salvation – instantly
- (b) Holy Spirit PLACES each BELIEVER into the BODY of CHRIST!

(2) EVEN to the Corinthians PAUL had to POINT OUT that the BARRIERS of PREJUDICE DISAPPEAR AT SALVATION

(3) One NEW BODY – the body of CHRIST! – HOMOGENOUS EXCEPT by FUNCTION (gifts)

8. SINCE

- a) God has created ALL MEN, ALL NATIONS
- b) God has created ONE NEW MAN with NO RACIAL distinction
- c) God has ESTABLISHED PEACE for all believers
- d) God has PUT ALL Christians INTO the body of CHRIST
- e) THEN – WHO ARE WE TO ALLOW PREJUDICE IN US as believers?!!!

D. Religious Prejudices: circumcised and uncircumcised,

1. SAME GROUPS BUT with RELIGIOUS VIEW

2. = Religious Categorization from a Jew's Point-of-view

3. Today = Disdain for your Religious background OR Beliefs

4. Today – what divides Christians in this area?

a) Denominational background!

(1) Baptists, Presbyterians, etc.

(2) Even Denomination VS. Non-denomination!

(3) I've had people look at me with disdain when I say we're non-denominational!

b) Beliefs!

(1) Election/Predestination Divides Churches

(2) Lose Your Salvation vs. Not Lose Your Salvation

- (3) Infant Baptism
- (4) Church Discipline
- (5) Elder Rule vs. Congregational rule
- c) Style of Worship! (Music ☺).

E. Cultural Prejudices: barbarian, Scythian

1. Paul Changes the list a little here
 - a) These two are NOT in CONTRAST to each other
 - b) They GO TOGETHER but Scythian BUILDS ON “barbarian”
2. “Barbarian” = “bar bar bar” = GREEK put down of ANYONE who didn’t speak GREEK!
 - a) What does a foreign language sound like to us? A: nonsensical sounds!
 - b) Made up word “bar bar bar” to mimic what they heard
 - c) = FOREIGNER WITH a negative connotation of UNCIVILIZED
 - (1) To the GREEK the WHOLE REST of the WORLD was UNCIVILIZED!
3. “Scythian” = LOWEST of the Barbarians!
 - a) Nomads from Black Sea/Caspian Sea area
 - b) Crude, Rough, Terrorized land – wasted all in their path
 - c) One historian:
 - (1) Drank the blood of their enemy
 - (2) Made Napkins of their scalps
 - (3) Made Cups of their skulls
 - (4) Never Bathed
 - (5) Delighted in Murder
 - d) Were conquered and made slaves in Greek empire
 - (1) So exposed to the Gospel
 - (2) AND some became Christians!
4. God SAVES in ALL CULTURES!
5. Barbarian wasn’t a nation, Scythians were nomads – NOT a nation
 - a) Paul using them to REPRESENT PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM US!
 - b) We call that CULTURAL differences!
6. THE GOSPEL BREAKS ALL barriers!
 - a) IGNORES all barriers!
 - b) Culture is ONE OF THEM!

F. Social Prejudices: slave and freeman

1. Remember – Most of Roman world
 - a) Either Roman or SLAVE to a Roman
 - b) Seen estimates of 30-70% were slaves
 - c) Upwards of 90% of Christians were slaves
 - d) ALL could be a slave – Doctors, Lawyers, Business owners, Laborers, families, etc.
2. Slave = Property /Aristotle – just another tool – Living tool!

3. To God: NO RELEVANCE to SALVATION or to PLACE in BODY of CHRIST!
4. Best example: Philemon and Onesimus
5. Paul: I'm sending Onesimus back to you as a Brother (still a slave)
 - a) Onesimus stole money from Philemon and ran away to Rome to hide
 - b) Met Paul somehow and Got Saved!
 - c) Now Paul Sending him Back with Letter to Philemon
[Phm 1:15](#) For perhaps he was for this reason separated *from you* for a while, that you would have him back forever, [16](#) no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. [17](#) [If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me.](#)
 - d) Amazing – accept him as you would me!
6. Another Barrier GONE in the BODY of Christ!
 - a) Entirely Possible Masters and Slaves
 - (1) Worshipped together
 - (2) Served Christ together
 - (3) Subject to one another in Christ
 - b) Slave Could be an elder over Master
 - c) Slave could call out sin on part of Master!
7. M.A. Smith “From Christ to Constantine:
 “That unity of slave and freeman was dramatically demonstrated in the arena of Carthage in 202AD. Perpetua, a young woman from a noble family and Felicitas, a slave girl, faced martyrdom for Christ. As they faced the wild beasts, they joined hands. Slave and free woman died together for the love of the same Lord.”

G. Paul is using Slave/Master as representative of SOCIAL BARRIERS!

1. NO class distinctions in Body of Christ!
2. No Rich/Poor
3. No Upper Class, Middle Class, Lower Class
4. Gone! AGAIN...
[1 Co 12:13](#) For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
5. Let's add ONE other “social” distinction GONE but cover elsewhere:
[Ga 3:28](#) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is [neither male nor female](#); for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
 - a) Men and women ARE EQUAL in Christ!
 - b) Be Careful – God does NOT allow for them to FUNCTION the SAME
 - c) BUT we are EQUALS before Christ!
 - d) World has a Prejudice against women
 - e) And – differing roles in Scripture has lead to Prejudice
 - f) ALL prejudice is SIN!

V. The All and in All Christ

Col 3:11 ~~a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman,~~ **but Christ is all, and in all.**

A. Literally: “but – the all and in all – Christ”

B. “but” = Strongest form of Contrast to the preceding list!

C. “the all and in all – Christ”

1. “Christ” is in apposition to the phrase = means they are equal/say the same thing
2. “and” is very important!
 - a) TWO equally important phrases here!
 - b) NOT meaning they are synonyms and can ignore one!
3. English robs us of the word “all” used twice here!

a) First “all” is Neuter gender

- (1) Refers to Christ
- (2) He is ALL we need
- (3) He is where ALL spiritual riches are found
- (4) Everything we need is in Him/from Him

(5) HE IS OUR “ALL”

(6) Where did we see this?

Col 2:10 and in Him you have been made complete,...

(7) And who is Christ?

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation

Col 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

(8) He is GOD and You have “completeness” = EVERYTHING POSSIBLE Spiritually IN HIM!

b) Second “all” is Masculine gender

- (1) Refers back to the list of types of people groups!
- (2) He is IN ALL members of the body of Christ – IN ALL Christians
- (3) Regardless of RACE, RELIGIOUS UPBRINGING, CULTURE, SOCIAL STATUS – Christ is IN ALL CHRISTIANS!
- (4) Where did we learn this?

Col 1:27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

(5) The amazing Mystery of the Spiritual Union of Christ in US!

D. POINT: ALL Differences DISAPPEAR IN HIM

E. Spiritual maturity = LOVE / ACCEPT ALL Christians. PERIOD.

1. There is NO COLOR, culture, etc. differences in Christian life of the function of the body of Christ
2. ALL DISUNITY by people groups are GONE!

F. Christ:

Jn 13:34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1. When LOVE replaces Prejudice, the world SEES SOMETHING it DOES NOT HAVE.
2. The WORLD – ALL MEN – Know that Jesus Christ is GOD and We are His disciples!
3. What is Love? = Sacrifice - Sacrificial love!

VI. CONCLUSION

A. IF anything BOTHERS you ABOUT a fellow CHRISTIAN OTHER THAN SIN – it is a PREJUDICE

B. IF a SIN of ANOTHER BOTHERS you have two choices:

1. LOVE THEM and Let Love Cover:

1 Pe 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

2. OR DEAL WITH IT!

Mt 18: 15 “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

3. BUT STOP LETTING IT BOTHER YOU!

C. BOTTOM LINE: PEOPLE DON'T BOTHER US!

1. My Race or NOT my race
2. My Nation or NOT my Nation
3. My Religious Background or NOT
4. My Culture or NOT my Culture
5. My Social Status or NOT my Social Status

D. I'll let Paul Close:

Ro 1:14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

Ro 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;