

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS – LESSON 7
COLOSSIANS 3:1-17
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2 – FEBRUARY 7

COMPLETE IN CHRIST - GROWING IN CHRISTLIKENESS

Paul starts most of his letters by laying a strong theological, doctrinal foundation. He then follows the doctrinal truths with practical application of that theology. In chapters 1 and 2 of Colossians Paul lays a firm doctrinal foundation refuting heresy and establishing that Christ is fully God and fully man. Through His death on the cross, He paid the penalty for our sins, to save all who believe; that faith alone in Christ alone is all that is necessary for salvation. Paul proclaims that believers are complete in Christ. In the final two chapters of Colossians, Paul moves into practical application of those doctrines.

At the time of salvation, we are fully complete in Christ and receive every spiritual blessing in the “heavenly places” (Eph 1:3). We become a “new creature; the old things passed away, new things have come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17). However, because sin remains present in our flesh, we must continuously “put aside” or “put off” sin. The good news is that God, working through the power of His Spirit is supplying all that we need (2 Pet. 1:3) to transform us to Christlikeness. Relying on God’s power, we put aside that sin and obey God’s Word, becoming more Christlike. That process is called progressive sanctification. That is the focus of the passage for this week.

In **Colossians 3**, Paul provides practical instruction in sanctification by teaching us **What to think (vs. 1-4)**; **What to Put Off (vs.5-9)** and **What to Put On (vs.10-17)**.

Read Colossians 3:1-4: (What to Think)

1. In **Colossians 3:1**, “if” in the NASB translation is better translated “since” you have been raised up with Christ. In **vs. 1**, what does Paul instruct us to do, and what does he tell us about the focus of our thoughts?
2. What are practical actions or thoughts we can apply today to seek those things or set our minds on things above?
3. How do the following verses help in setting our minds on things above?
 - **Rom. 12:2**
 - **Psalms 1:1-2**
 - **Phil. 4:8**

Paul is not advocating a form of mysticism. Rather he desires that the Colossians’ preoccupation with heaven govern their earthly responses. To be preoccupied with heaven is to be preoccupied with the One who reigns there and His purposes, plans, provisions, and power. It is also to view the things, people and events of this world through His eyes and with His eternal perspective. The things above refers to the heavenly realm and hones in on the spiritual values that characterize Christ, such as tenderness, kindness, meekness, patience, wisdom, forgiveness, strength, purity and love. [MacArthur Commentary Colossians & Philemon](#), p. 128

Read Colossians 3:5-9: (What to Put Off)

4. From **vs. 5**, what sins are listed and how do those “amount to idolatry”?
5. What reasons does Paul give in **vs. 6-7** to put away or put off those actions listed in **vs. 5**?
6. In **vs. 8**, what sins, primarily addressing speech, does Paul instruct you to lay aside?
7. From Paul’s list of sins to put off or lay aside, which ones do you need to address? How will you do that?

Read Colossians 3:10-17: (What to Put On)

8. In **verses 10-11**, how does Paul describe the new man or new self?
9. How does the truth of **vs. 12(a)** motivate you to live as described in **vs. 12(b)-17**?
10. What are the actions, attitudes, traits and practices in **vs. 12-17** you are to put on or act upon?
11. From **verses 12-17**, what actions, attitudes, traits and practices are most important to you right now to focus on and what specific steps will you take to “put on” those traits or practices?

To put on the new lifestyle is to put on Christ. That is the obligation of every believer: “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts”. (Rom.13:14) The goal of the Christian life is Christlikeness. [MacArthur Colossians & Philemon](#), p.160

12. What area of your life do you need to safeguard by making “no provision for the flesh”?