

Colossians Chapter 3

1. If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

A. If then you were raised with Christ

1. It is difficult to understand statements like- "died with Christ", "buried with Christ", and here "raised with Christ" without understanding our connection to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our covenant representative before God. He represented us in his earthly life and death upon the cross. He also represented us when He was buried and then raised from the dead. He also represented us when He was exalted and sat down at the right hand of God. Since we are in our representative, whatever He did it is seen as happening to us. When Jesus was raised up from the dead, we were raised in Him. Jesus is seated in heavenly places and so are we! [Eph. 2:6]

B. seek those things which are above

1. We are to seek higher things than the things of this life. People are consumed with earning money so they can retire comfortably. Most people study hard to get a job so they can get nice things and retire one day. This is living the low life!

2. Christians are to live for higher things than what the world lives for. We are to live for the will and glory of God and bring His will and glory to the Earth.

3. There are two paradigms to live your life from. One is heavenly. This is where all is done for the glory of God. The second is earthly and all is done for self. One is the high life and one is the low life! It is

possible to do everything, even good things such as prayer, giving, and church attendance from the perspective of self. When this occurs then everything you do will become skewed and perverted. Even prayer, study of the bible, and giving if they are done from self being the center will be perverted. [**James 4:3**] - we ask and do not receive because we ask amiss, so that we can spend it on our own lusts [desires and purposes].

4. We need to ask ourselves are we doing the things in our life for the glory of God, or for ourselves. This will reveal whether we are living the high life or the low life.

C. where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God

1. Jesus is sitting

a. Sitting shows Jesus is resting in His finished work. He is resting in faith in what He has done and what He has said- are we sitting on the inside and resting?

b. Sitting shows that Jesus is reigning upon His throne- are we reigning? We should be because we are seated with Him! We should not let sickness remain. We should not let lack remain. We should not let sin remain. We should not let the works of the enemy remain. We are to reign on earth from our authority and position in heaven.

2. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

A. **Set your mind on things above-** This is a present tense command in the Greek- Be constantly thinking upon things above

1. A heavenly lifestyle begins with a heavenly mindset. You cannot live like those in heaven do and live for self.
2. Everyone in heaven is God focused and all is done for the glory of God. It should be the same here! [1 Cor. 10:31]
3. Heaven is controlled by the Word of God which is His will. To have your mind set on things above is to have a mindset that is Word based and focused on glorifying God in each situation. How God thinks is recorded in the Word of God. In each and every circumstance need to ask ourselves, "What does the Word of God say about this?" If we will renew our mind to the Word of God, then our life will be transformed.

A Christian who sets their mind on the Word of God and God's glory is spiritual. These are consistent in spending time in the Word, prayer, and coming to church. They do it to bring God glory and not for the purpose of furthering their own selfish interests.

B. not on things on the earth

1. Unfortunately, many Christians think more like the world does than the way God thinks. Therefore, their lives do not look much different than the world even though they have been born again and have the life of God in their spirits.
2. Many Christians react to things the same way those in the world do because they think the same way they do! Many Christians are as self-absorbed as the world is even though they do religious things.
3. A selfish Christian is an earth bound Christian. They are a carnal Christian. They have a spotty Word, prayer, and church life. Therefore, they live a spotty life! If they do study the Word, pray, or

attend church they do it for what they can get out of it. These will end up frustrated that God does not perform for them like they think they should and get offended at God for not coming through for them.

4. Bottom line between these two ways of thinking is this - A heavenly mindset is that we exist for God and to bless Him. An earthly mindset is that God exists for us and to bless us. Our whole lives will be impacted by which mindset we hold!

3. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

A. For you have died

1. Again, we died in our covenant representative Jesus Christ. When He died, we all died. [**2 Cor. 5:14**]
2. The old self-centered sinner we used to be died with Christ. We now are born again with the life of Christ on the inside of our spirits. The life Christ lives He lives unto the glory of God. [**Romans 6:10**] In our spirit we desire to live unto God and for His glory, but in our flesh, we want to live for self and for our own glory. We have a choice which we will live from. One will glorify God, and the other will seek glory for self. One is tapped into by faith in the Word, and the other is tapped into by unbelief.

B. and your life, is hidden with Christ in God

1. Our death with Christ is seen as a seed. When a seed is buried under ground it dies, but then later it releases its hidden life from within it and it bursts forth above ground later. Likewise, the old person we were when we were unsaved died with Christ.

However, the seed of life was buried in our spirit. It is buried in God. One day on resurrection day that life will burst forth in resurrection and we will take on the outward image of Christ! Until then, our new life is hidden with Christ in God. We can see glimpses of it sprout up when we walk in faith and for the glory of God.

4. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

A. When Christ who is your life appears

1. Christ is our life. The life within our re-born spirit is Christ. We are in union with Him. From the life of Christ inside us we are to bear holy fruit unto God. From His life we can live to glorify God in all things because Christ lives unto the Father in all things. We do not have to live like Christ, but we can express Christ Himself when we walk by faith.

B. then you also will appear with Him in glory

1. At the rapture of the church when Christ appears, we will see Him as He is and we will be changed into His same image. The seed of life within us will burst forth and we will fully take on the full blossom of His image!
2. This is a spiritual law - what we behold we will be changed by. When we see Jesus as He is, we are transformed more into His image. When we fully see Him one day, we will be fully transformed into His image! [1 John 3:2]

5. Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

A. We have been studying the first half of Colossians. The first half reveals who we are in Christ, and what we have in Christ. Now we enter the second half of the letter which reveals to us what we can now do because we are in Christ. Notice, Paul did not start the letter off with telling the saints to stop certain sins like fornication and covetousness. No, he first shows us who we are and what we have in Christ and then says “Because of this we have the power to lay these sins down! “

B. Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth

1. This is referring to the flesh. The nature of the flesh is in our body. Our body has not been redeemed. If we are ruled by our body, we will live selfish and unclean lives that do not glorify God.
2. Many try to put to death their flesh by will power and rules. This just feeds the flesh. The flesh cannot get rid of the flesh. The flesh is daily put to death by faith in who we are in Christ and what we have in Christ. When we walk in faith then the Spirit of God puts to death the flesh. Walking in faith is walking in the Spirit. They are synonymous phrases. When we walk in the Spirit then we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. [[Gal 5:16](#)]

C. fornication

1. This is the first sin mentioned we are to lay down in our life. Fornication is sex before you are married and make a covenant with someone. We should not commit fornication because we are

born again, holy, a saint, loved, forgiven, and righteous. It is wholly incongruent with who we are now in Christ. Fornication is a sign of a self-centered person who wants to fulfill their lusts. Someone who wants sex with you outside of covenant are living for themselves and not for God's glory.

2. This word includes pornography because the Greek word for fornication is **porneia**, where we get the word pornography. We need to renew our mind to who we are in Christ. When we do this then the Spirit will empower us to lay these sins down.

D. uncleanness

1. Gr. **akatharsia**- *this is unnatural sexual acts such as homosexuality and perverted practices.* These are also a byproduct of a self-centered person and is the fruit of the flesh.
2. We can see this sin put to death in our life when we renew our mind and start walking in faith in who we are and what we have in Christ.

E. passion, evil desire

1. These are evil desires of the flesh to fulfill selfish cravings. These arise from a heart that is empty of the love of God. When we see who we are in Christ then we will experience the love of God filling our heart. Love gives and does not take. Lust and passion takes from others to meet the needs of self.

F. and covetousness, which is idolatry

1. Gr. **pleonexia**- *the desire to have more and more.* The flesh is never satisfied. It must have more and more. Those who are

bound to the sin listed above cannot get enough. They are driven to have more and more and their lives spiral downward.

2. Covetous is idolatry. A life that is driven by self is really worshipping things and self instead of God. A fleshly life glorifies things and self and not God.

G. How do we turn around a self-centered life to a God honoring life?

1. Repent and change your paradigm focus! Turnabout face!
2. Start the renewing of the mind process. If you are bound by these sins, then it shows your mind is not renewed. Put the Word of God, especially the verses of who you are and what you have in Christ into your heart.
3. Start speaking and acting upon the Word in faith.
4. Do not stop when you fall down or stumble.

6. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

A. Because of these things

1. The practices of fornication, uncleanness, lust, passion, and idolatry.

B. the wrath of God is coming

1. The wrath of God is on the way for unbelievers. They know it in their hearts, but they try to forget it.

C. upon the sons of disobedience

1. This refers to unbelievers. They do not obey the gospel and live in the sins of the flesh. Believers are the sons of obedience. They have obeyed the gospel.
2. Believers should not be partaking of these sins. God hates these sins. Jesus took the wrath of God for us and we will not have to face the wrath of God, but God will discipline us for our good if we do not repent from these sins. His discipline is four-fold - First he disciplines by his Word, then he allows circumstances to spank us, then He allows satan to destroy the flesh, and lastly, He will call a believer home early.
3. The forgiveness of sins is not the removing of consequences. Jesus paid for our sins and forgave them. The penalty for sins is death. Jesus died for our sins; however, God does not remove the consequences for our sins.
4. **[2 Sam. 12:13]**- David sin was forgiven [He did not die], but he faced the consequences of his sin.

7. in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

- A. Walking refers to actions. Living in them speaks of their spiritual position as a sinner. Their fallen spiritual life was producing the sins.
- B. Christians have the power and authority to put these sins away and walk in faith, holiness, and purity because we live in Christ.
- C. Paul is saying here that there should be a distinction between unbelievers and believers. If there is no difference, then we can rightly ask if we are truly Christians. Christians are followers of Christ.

If our life is devoid of the character and nature of Christ, then have we truly been born again?

8. But now ye also, put off all these things: anger, wrath, wickedness, reviling, filthy speaking out of your mouth.

A. But now also, put off all these

1. Paul often uses the phrases "put off" and "put on". These in the Greek are clothing terms. They mean to put off clothing and put on clothing. Paul uses the terminology of clothing to speak of **identification**.
2. Clothing is a major way we identify ourselves. Most occupations have specific clothing that identifies them - doctors, policemen, firemen, construction workers, etc.
3. Paul is revealing here that our outward actions are like clothing we wear on the outside and they are based upon our identity OR SENSE OF IDENTITY. Sinners sin because of their identity. When we got saved, we received a new identity as a righteous child of God. Because our identity has changed, we need also a change of old soiled clothing [polluted outward actions] with new clean clothing [pure actions] that correspond to our new identity.

B. anger, wrath, wickedness, reviling, filthy speaking out of your mouth.

1. anger, wrath, and wickedness are sins of the heart. Reviling and filthy speaking are sins of the mouth. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth will speak. [**Luke 6:45**]

2. These sins are born out of insecurity and a lack of understanding our new righteous and complete identity. These are all fear based and focused on self. We can take these off by renewing our mind to our new identity in Christ. The love of God will drive out all fear. Those who have anger problems need to learn to ask themselves, what am I afraid of and then turn to the love of God which will drive it out.

3. If we will deal with our heart, then our mouth will follow suit!

9. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

A. Do not lie to one another

1. Lying is another sin that is based in fear and insecurity and will be dealt with by renewing our mind to our new identity in Christ.

2. Lying includes white lies, black, purple, and blue ones! This includes telling partial truths that leave false impressions.

B. since you have put off the old man with his deeds

1. Our old identity we had in Adam died with Christ as our covenant representative. We put off our old identity and now we have slipped on our new clothing of Christ. We have been reborn and have the life of the new man which is Christ.

10. and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

A. We have a new identity in Christ. We have put Him on. [**Gal. 3:27, Romans 13:14**]

B. We need to be renewed by revelation knowledge of our new identity in Christ. When we renew our mind then we will be conformed into the image of Christ. [**Romans 12:1-2, Romans 8:29, 2 Cor. 3:18**]

C. We put off the habits of the old man and put on the habits of the new man by believing in our hearts and with **OUR TONGUE!** This is vitally important to understand! In each situation we face and each temptation that arises we need to verbally put off the habits of the old man by speaking out that we no longer are identified with Adam and with sinful, selfish, and fear based actions because of the cross of Jesus. You need to speak out that you have a new nature and identity which is Christ and you are sharing His life and character which is free from sin. In Him you are loved and love God, yourself, and others. Love is the root we draw from to walk free from sin and to love others with! We need to boldly proclaim when we are facing sin- **THIS IS NOT MY IDENTITY ANY LONGER! - I HAVE A NEW IDENTITY THAT IS LOVED, RIGHTEOUS, PURE, AND A CHILD OF GOD!** Too many of us fight temptations with our will power or mentally try to deal with them. This is not going to cut it! We must use our tongue and voice and proclaim our new identity. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. If we will consistently use our tongue in each situation then we will start seeing a change in our actions. James says our tongue is like a rudder and bit and will change our actions and course of life! [**James 3:3-4**]

11. **where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.**

A. In Christ there is **neither Greek nor Jew** - There are no racial distinction or advantage in races.

B. In Christ there is **neither circumcised nor uncircumcised** - There are no physical distinctions or physical advantages.

C. In Christ there is **neither barbarian nor Scythian**- These two were the original dumb and dumber! There are no distinctions in intellectual ability. There is no advantage in learning.

D. In Christ there is **neither slave nor free**- There is no distinction in social standing. There is no advantage in one's social standing.

E. **but Christ is all in all**

1. We are saved by grace. We are what we are by the grace of God and not by our race, physical attributes, intellectual ability, or social standing.

2. We all have received the righteousness of Christ and are all equal in and by His grace. This should end all comparisons which lead to pride or envy.

12. **Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.**

A. **Therefore, as the elect of God**

1. Paul now is going to direct Christians to make a change of their behavior like they do with a change of clothing. Before such a change can be made there must be a renewing of the mind. Paul

mentions three things we need to see, understand, and accept before our outward life will change. The first one is that we have been chosen by God Himself.

2. **elect**- *this means to be chosen*. We did not choose God, He chose us! [**John 15:16**] We were not born by chance and we are not born again by chance. Being chosen by God gives us importance, significance, and purpose. God has a plan for all He has chosen! Living with this reality will impact our actions.

B. **holy and beloved**

1. Here are the next two things we must see, understand, and accept before our outward life can be changed. **We are holy**- Gr. **hagios**- *this means set apart for exclusive use or a particular function*. Christians are called holy over sixty times in the New Testament. Many believers see themselves as unholy and are trying to be holy. We must start with God's grace and our new identity in Christ. We are holy through our union with Christ in our spirit. Our new identity is holy because Christ is holy. **As He is so are we in this present world.** [**1 John 4:17**] To renew our mind to this spiritual fact we **MUST** speak it often over ourselves out loud until it is accepted as truth to the deepest part of our mind and heart. Once this is done, then the outward life of holiness will be put on without strain or struggle.
2. **We are beloved** - This is the last and most important revelation we must see, understand, and accept. We are loved. The agape love of God is not based upon performance but upon God who is love. His love is unconditional on God's part who gives it. He loved

the world before He sent Jesus. [**John 3:16**] He loved us when we were yet sinners. [**Romans 5:8**] However, God's love is not strictly unconditional in our lives because it must be believed and received. [**1 John 4:16**] If we do not believe or accept God's love, we will not experience that love like we should. God's love is freely given but is also not forced upon us. Love would cease to be love if it were forced. It must be received. We are loved not because of what we do, but because we are. We are God's creation and child. We need to verbally speak to ourselves on a regular basis that God loves us in order to persuade our hearts of His love. When you believe God loves you it will produce a change in your life just like when a child knows they are loved by their parents it impacts their behavior. Too many Christians at the heart level still think God's love must be earned or deserved or that God is mad at them. If God loved you when you were a sinner and at your worst, then why do you not think He loves you now that you are His child? What grieves the Lord is when we choose not to believe what He has done for us and what He says about us and when we do not believe and receive of His love. Receiving God's love will cast out fear and insecurity in our life and will fill us with love that will cause us to live a fruit filled life.

- C. **put on** - again the imagery of changing clothing speaks a change of identities. Our identity is no longer in Adam and connected with sin. Our new identity is with Christ and His holiness and love.
- D. **tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering-** These are just an outflow from a heart that knows it is chosen, holy, and loved. The key to putting these on again is by speaking regularly

over ourselves our new identity. Christ is full of tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, and longsuffering. When we believe in our heart and confess with our mouth that our identity is rooted in Christ and we are now as He is, then the Spirit of God releases the life of God out of our reborn spirit to produce tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, and longsuffering in our lives. It is put on us like clothing from heaven!

13. bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

A. **bearing with one another** - Gr. **Anechomai** - *to hold up* - We are to hold up one another. When a brother or sister is acting ugly, they are stumbling in their love walk. We need to hold them up, instead of finishing them off by throwing them down and stomping on them! Mature believers hold up those who are stumbling and lift them back up and help them back on the path of love.

B. **and forgiving one another**- We forgive people, God forgives sins.

1. God has paid the death penalty for the sins we have done and that others have done to us. Now God asks that we release people into His hands. This is a supernatural ability of God's love. When we accept God's love for us, we accept His forgiveness. When we do, we have the resource then to forgive. Notice that we forgive

EVEN AS CHRIST FORGAVE YOU.

2. Under the Law you had to forgive first before you were forgiven. [Matthew 6:14] Under the covenant of grace we forgive **AS WE HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN**. Under the Law you received only after you act. Under grace we receive first and then have what is given as the resource to act!

C. **If anyone has a complaint against another-** Gr. **Momphe** - *blame*. This word is from the Greek god Momus, the ultimate fault finder. He found fault with everyone and everything. We all have a Momus in our flesh. We all can be overly critical and judgmental towards others and even ourselves. If you have found fault [and you do not have to look very far] with someone else or even yourself, you are to forgive as you were forgiven of your many faults by God!

14. **But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.** A. **But above all these things put on love**

1. Because of our identity in Christ we have the nature of love on the inside of us. We received it when we got saved. Love was shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit when we were saved. [Romans 5:5]
2. In the New Covenant God only asks from you what He first put within you! This is grace!
3. We can only put on love if we believe we are loved and have love in the first place. Those who feel unloved will have nothing to put on but the old clothing of bitterness, fault finding, and harshness. We must renew our mind by way of our tongue! **Even Hitler knew this principle. He knew if you said something enough then**

you would start to believe it! This is how He brainwashed a whole nation! We need a good brain washing today with the water of the Word! It starts with our continual speaking the truth over ourselves! Husbands are to do this towards their wives. [**Eph 5:26**] A husband is to wash his wife with the spoken word. This is how our minds and hearts will be washed! It is by the continual spoken word! God has spoken good things over us, now we must also do the same on a continual basis!

B. which is the bond of perfection

1. Gr. **sundesmos teleiotes** - *This was the term for an upper garment which completes and keeps together the rest, which, without it, would be loose and disconnected.* Paul is continuing his imagery of putting on clothing. The bond of perfection was the final garment that completed an outfit but also held the rest of the outfit together. Love is what will hold together your entire life. If you do not know, believe, and receive God's love towards you, your life will ultimately fall apart! If you do not give love, then your relationships will ultimately fall apart.

15. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body: and be thankful.

A. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts

1. We must **let peace** rule in our hearts. Worry and fret cannot coexist with peace. We have a responsibility to kick out the squatters of worry and fret and invite the peace of God into our hearts. We do this in prayer. [**Phil. 4:6-7**]

2. **rule-** Gr. **brabeuo-** *to act as an umpire*. An umpire determines if someone is in bounds or out of bounds. The peace of God acts as an umpire in our life to let us know what is safe and what is out!
When we lack peace, it is a sign that we are out of bounds. When we have peace, we are safe and in bounds.
3. My infamous car buying experience- I disobeyed the inner umpire and got thrown out at home!
4. Walking in strife and unforgiveness will give your heart unrest and the lack of peace is a sign you are way out of bounds.

B. to which you also were called in one body

1. Your body works in harmony together. This is how we are to be in the church and with fellow believers. We are one body. Holding grudges is like a cancer in our body that works against ourselves.

C. and be thankful

1. Thankfulness is one of the master keys of the victorious and Spirit filled life. God is positive and flows through the positive. Electrons always flow towards the positive and then the power surge of electricity flows from the positive into the negative. To get the process of power working in your life start with thanksgiving and then the power of God will flow to change the negative situations in your life!

16. **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**

- A. This is the sister verse of [**Ephesians 5:18**]. This verse gives explanation on how to live the Spirit filled life. The Spirit and the Word always work together. When the Word of God is filling our heart and coming out our mouth then the Spirit will be flowing in and through us!
- B. One of the necessary components of a Spirit filled life is church life. Notice we are filled with the Word/Spirit speaking to **one another!** When we join together with the body, we receive of each other's anointings and fill one another with the Word and encouragement.

17. And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

A. And whatever you do in word or deed

- 1. Here we see that speaking is precedent to actions. This works positive or negative. They work hand and hand.

B. Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus

- 1. This verse is telling us to live our life from the paradigm of doing all we do for God's glory and for His name's sake and not our own. Whatever paradigm we choose will impact absolutely everything we do even "good" things.

C. giving thanks to God the Father through Him

- 1. Thanksgiving is such a powerful discipline that Paul mentions it again. He just told them to be thankful in verse 15! This is a key to the flow of the Spirit and operating in faith.

18. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

- A. This begins a section that deals with submission and authority.
Submission is to be done in the name of the Lord and as unto Him.
- B. In the NT different roles of authority and submission are listed.
1. **kings-citizens- citizens are only addressed and not kings.**
 2. **husbands-wives**
 3. **fathers-children**
 4. **masters-slaves**
- C. In each place these roles are mentioned or addressed the role of submission is addressed first.
[Eph. 6:5-9, Col. 3:18-4:1, 1 Tim. 6:1-2, Peter 3:1,7]
One might think God would start addressing those in authority first and then those in submission, but He does it the other way.
- D. All authority and places of authority belong to God and are of God.
[Matthew 28:18, Romans 13:1] However, submission belongs to man.
- E. God flows His power, blessing, and provision through channels of authority. This flow is to fill up the places of submission. Submission is the receptacle for God's flow of power, blessing, and provision. The word submit is from the Gk word **hupotasso**- which means to *arrange oneself under*. It is connected with the word humility which means *low lying*. Water always seeks to find the lowest ground and fill it up. This is the same with the flow of God's power, blessing, and provision. It seeks low ground to fill up. When someone humbles themselves and submits to authority it causes a draw downward of the flow of God. If someone is lifted up in pride, then the flow is slowed or stopped. It has nowhere to go.

- F. Many think being in submission is a place of weakness. However, it is a place of power. Those in submission have a lot of control of the flow of God's power, blessing, and provision.
- G. The channels of authority are people and people are not perfect and they make mistakes. The touchstone of submission is when there is a disagreement. Until there is a disagreement then submission is not tested. Until then one is just walking in agreement. Jesus walked in agreement with His Father, but He had a test of submission in the Garden of Gethsemane when God's will was different than His own. Likewise, our submission is tested in the test tube of disagreement. When we disagree, it is not submission to gossip and gripe to others. Go to God with your feelings.
- H. Many will say, usually I submit but now I do not agree and will not submit. Actually, they were just walking in agreement and this was the first time they had to truly submit, and they are not going to!
- I. Those in submission control the flow of God. If someone submits to authority even if they feel it is the wrong decision it will cause a demand and pull upon the flow of God's power. Again, that flow comes through authority. This puts pressure on the authority above to allow that flow to come through them to those under them. If those in authority do not allow this then greater pressure is applied to where they will either change, be removed, or God will remove those from under them so they can be blessed. However, if someone chooses not to submit, they raise themselves up and the flow is cut off and so is the pressure and a negative situation can remain for many years. Those in submission think changes must start with those in authority

but really God wants the change process to begin with the place of submission because He knows therein lies the key to His flow of power! God's flow is ready to go, but we must give a place to go. It starts with us!

- J. Submission is something we choose to do. Submission must never be forced. If it is, then it becomes slavery. Submission is recognizing your proper place God has called you to and arranging yourself under the authority over you. You are to realize in order to function in a nation, home, or company there must be roles of authority and submission. We are to submit to authority in the fear of God. We need to do this in faith that this is for the purpose of our being blessed by God and not harmed. Submission is a test of humility and the way for us to receive from God.
- K. Our submission is unto God. When a private joins the army they are placed into the service under authority. Their superiors are representations of the authority of the Commander in Chief. When we as Christian submit to authority we are doing it unto our Commander in Chief- the Lord Jesus Christ. When we rebel against authority, we do it to Jesus Christ. **[Matt 10:40, John 13:20, Luke 10:16]**
- L. Rebellion and faith cannot coexist. Jesus submitted to His Father because He trusted Him to take care of Him. When we fail to submit to authority then we are not trusting Jesus to take care of us.
- M. We all are called to submission in our life. The flesh in all of us does not like to submit. The flesh wants to always be in control. This is not given to man. This is reserved for God alone. Come to grips with it!

N. **Wives submit to you OWN husbands-** This verse shows that women are not to be submissive or subject to all men. They are to submit to their own husbands

O. **as is fitting in the Lord-** This reveals that submission should be not be given in areas and in ways that are not glorifying or pleasing to the Lord. We should never submit to sinful activities or things that abuse or hurt us or others. This is not fitting in the Lord.

19. Husbands love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

A. Husbands, love your wives

1. Husbands are to mirror Christ to their wives. The Lord exercises authority over us in order to reveal His love, protection, and provision for us. This should be the same for husbands for their wives.

B. **and do not be bitter toward them-** bitter here means to be sharp towards. Men need to watch their tone and manner towards their wives. We are not to yell, be sharp in our words, or have out bursts of anger towards them. The Lord Jesus is not that way with us, and we are to mirror Him to our wives. Husbands need to take on the gentleness of the Lord. This comes by putting on Christ.

20. Children obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

A. **Children are to obey their parents.** Wives are to submit. Wives are not commanded to obey like they are children. Wives are to have a

submissive attitude towards their husbands. Husbands are not to order their wives around.

B. It is well pleasing to the Lord for children to obey their parents. It is important that parents teach their children to obey and not allow the children to rule them or get away with disrespectful behavior. This displeases the Lord.

21. Fathers do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

A. Fathers do not provoke your children

1. **provoke-** Gk. **erethizo-** *to incite to anger-* discipline can become abuse when done anger. This can be verbal or physical abuse. Unreasonable rules or rules without relationship will cause a child to resent a parent. A parent can provoke his children by neglecting them and not giving them any correction or guidance.
2. **discouraged-** Gk. **athumeo-** *to be spiritless; to become discouraged; to give up.* A child that is abused will end up being depressed and discouraged. Many children today live this way and suicide is on the increase.

22. Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

A. **Bondservants-** Gr. **douloi-** *slaves-* today we can put employees in this verse and masters as employers.

B. **obey in all things-** as with children, employees are to obey. Wives are to submit themselves.

C. **not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers**- This means you are to work just as hard when no one is looking than when the boss is looking. Your heavenly boss is always looking! We are to please God over man.

D. **but in sincerity of heart, fearing God**

1. **sincerity**- Gk. **haplotes**- *singleness*- We are to do all we do for God's glory alone.

2. **fearing God**- out of deep reverence for God

23. **And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,**

A. **And whatever you do**- It does not matter so much what we do but who we are doing it for.

B. **do it heartily**- Gk. **ek psuche**- *from the soul*

C. **as to the Lord and not to men**- All we do can be done unto man, or unto God. Your paradigm affects everything you do. If what you do is unto man [yourself and others] then it will be defiled. If it is unto God, then it will be sanctified and blessed.

24. **knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.**

A. Knowing that our submission to earthly authorities is really submission to the Lord is the key to being able to submit. We can submit to natural authorities by keeping our eye and service upon the Lord because ultimately, we are serving the Lord Christ.

- B. No matter what job you have your attitude can be transformed at work when you realize you are not working for your company primarily, but you are serving the Lord Christ!
- C. Submission and obedience to authority will receive a natural and eternal reward! This is another reason and empowerment to submit.

25. But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

- A. Submission and obedience to authority is seen as doing good for which a reward will be given.
- B. Sowing and reaping is a natural principle and is always in effect. We should not be deceived, God is not mocked, what we sow we shall also reap. [Gal. 6:7] The bad that we sow will be reaped in some form or fashion on this earth.
- C. The law of gravity is impartial. It holds sinners and saints to the ground. If this law is violated both will be hurt as well. The law of sowing and reaping is impartial. Christians and sinners who act wickedly will face natural consequences for their actions.

26. Col 4:1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

- A. Christian employers are commanded by God to give all their employees what is just and fair. They are not to give preferential treatment to fellow Christians or not pay them as much because they are brothers and will forgive them!
- B. Our master is in heaven. We all have a boss over us no matter how high we rise!