

Week of February 25th – March 2nd

Love God and Love Others

Daily Bible Reading and Study Questions

Monday February 25th: Romans 6:1-11

Describe the “Old Man” versus the “New Man” in terms of control and sin.

“Old Man”	“New Man”
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Tuesday February 26th: Ephesians 4:17-24

Describe the “Old Man” versus the “New Man” in detailed terms of the condition of the heart and actions of the man.

“Old Man”	“New Man”
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Wednesday February 27th: Colossians 3:12-13 & Galatians 5:22-23

Compare the lists of the attitudes and behaviors.

Colossians 3:12-13	Galatians 5:22-23
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Thursday February 28th: Colossians 3:14-17

Please list the primary attribute, what should rule in the believer’s heart, and what should dwell within the believer.

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Friday February 29th: Colossians 3:9-17

How is possible to live a lifestyle that is described in Colossians 3:10-17? What happened in Colossians 3:9-11?

March 2nd

Love God and Love Others

Lesson Passages: Colossians 3:12-17

LESSON PASSAGES OUTLINE

1. Attitude and Behavior Expected (Colossians 3:12-13)
2. Do All In the Name of the Lord (Colossians 3:14-17)

LIFE EXPECTATIONS

To assist the believer in the understanding and application of God's commands to love Him and others.

In discussions with the Pharisees Jesus was presented with a question as is recorded in Matthew 22:35-39: "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." In Matthew believers are commanded to "love" which brings the question to mind, what is "love"?

The overall concept of "love" is described by Milfred Minatrea as the passion action of loving God through worship and obedience, then loving others by embracing them and inviting them to Christ. Worship is the natural expression of adoration from the heart that knows God's love. Obedience is a logical response to God's love and the appropriate response to His revelation. The believer's response of obedience to God's love is evidence of salvation: "And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments" (1 John 2:3). To embrace others is to extend arms of acceptance and compassion. This is not acceptance of their actions, but acceptance of them as God's creation just as He accepted us which is the image of Christ reflected in Matthew 11:28, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest". Believers should also have a passion for loving others by inviting them to experience His love personally. Now that we understand the overall concept of love, the next question is, how?

How do we love God? Wayne Grudem's outline takes us through specific Scripture of how to love God:

- 1) Prayer (Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6)
- 2) Bible reading and meditation. (Psalm 1:2; Matthew 4:4; John 17:17)
- 3) Worship (Ephesians 5:18-20)
- 4) Witnessing (Matthew 29:19-20)
- 5) Christian Fellowship (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- 6) Self discipline or self control (Galatians 5:23; Titus 1:8)

This process details the individual steps a believer must take in the sanctification process, which will increase their love for God. As the believer progresses through this process their love for God increases which in turn will produce certain characteristics, attitudes, and behaviors in their lives.

Let us examine Colossians 3:12-17 to gain a greater understanding of the motivation and characteristics of what “love” is.

Attitude and Behavior Expected (Colossians 3:12-13)

<i>Amplified</i>	<i>NASB</i>
<p>¹²Clothe yourselves therefore, as God's own chosen ones (His own picked representatives), [who are] purified and holy and well-beloved [by God Himself, by putting on behavior marked by] tenderhearted pity and mercy, kind feeling, a lowly opinion of yourselves, gentle ways, [and] patience [which is tireless and long-suffering, and has the power to endure whatever comes, with good temper]. ¹³Be gentle and forbearing with one another and, if one has a difference (a grievance or complaint) against another, readily pardoning each other; even as the Lord has [freely] forgiven you, so must you also [forgive].</p>	<p>¹²So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.</p>

In view of what God has done through Jesus Christ, the apostle Paul details the attitude and behavior God expects in response from the believer (the new man). Verse 12 details three very important descriptions in the lives of believers:

1. “Chosen of God” - explains the fact that salvation is not a result of man’s work. God did not choose us because of our good works, but because we are chosen we are called to good works.
2. “Holy”- means to be “set apart” or “separate”. Believers are called to be different from the world. Believers cannot make a difference in the world if they do not demonstrate a difference in attitude and behavior than the world.
3. “Beloved”- Believers are the objects of God’s special love as is described in John 13:1 and Ephesians 1:4-5.

How does knowing that we are beloved by God motivate us to the conduct described in verses 12-16?

In verse 12 God instructs the believer to “put on a heart” in response to His grace. The Hebrew word for "heart" is **לב** (lev). The heart is the concrete and physical "heart", the organ in the chest. But, this same word also represents the abstract idea of "emotion", as the ancient Hebrews understood the "heart" as the seat of emotion (much like we see thinking being associated with the brain). This understanding of “heart” encompasses the total personality of a person. Most particularly for the inner self - what it means to be human – personality/inclination, also intellect, rational thought (metaphorically “the brain” in English) which includes memory, emotions, desires, will, determination, and courage.

The balance of verse 12 and verse 13 detail the response God expects from the chosen. The question we must ask our selves is do we demonstrate these attitudes and behaviors on a consistent and growing basis.

- ✓ Heart of compassion- Seat of emotions which is often described by the words mercy, pity, and sympathy. Believers should not be indifferent, but should show concern for all in need and suffering. (Matt. 9:36; Luke 6:36; James 5:11)
- ✓ Kindness- Grace that pervades the whole person demonstrating goodness toward others not only believers, but to all even those that are ungrateful and evil. (Matt. 11:29-30; Luke 6:35; 10:25-37)
- ✓ Humility- The word humility is not a negative term, instead as demonstrated by Jesus Christ it is actually a virtue. According to Augustine, Luther, and Calvin humility is the first precept of the Christian religion. Jesus required for receiving the kingdom or the greatness within it, that one humble oneself as a child in pure receptivity. From humility toward God follows humility towards others as Jesus demonstrated by washing the feet of the disciples. (Phil. 2:3-8, Matt 11:29; 18:4; John 13:14-16; James 4:6, 10)
- ✓ Gentleness (meekness)- Is not a weakness but a willingness to suffer injury or insult rather than to inflict such hurts.
- ✓ Patience (longsuffering)(Romans 2:4)- the opposite of quick to anger, resentment, or revenge as is ultimately demonstrated by Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 1:16; 2 Peter 3:15). It endures injustice and troublesome circumstances with the hope for coming relief.
- ✓ Bearing with one another- to endure, to hold out in spite of persecution, threats, injury, indifference, or complaints and not retaliate. (1 Corinthians 4:12; 6:7; 2 Thessalonians 1:4)
- ✓ Forgiving each other- not only to endure, but also to forgive which literally means to be gracious.
- ✓ Whoever has a complaint against anyone- The operative word is “whoever”, which includes everyone.
- ✓ Just as the Lord forgave you- Because Christ as the model of forgiveness has forgiven; all believers must be willing to forgive others. (Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 18:21-35)

In the list above which attitudes and behaviors do you need to seek God’s forgiveness for not demonstrating on a daily basis and seek His strength to correct?

Do All In the Name of the Lord (Colossians 3:14-17)

<i>Amplified</i>	<i>NASB</i>
<p>¹⁴And above all these [put on] love and enfold yourselves with the bond of perfectness [which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony]. ¹⁵And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ's] one body you were also called [to live]. And be thankful (appreciative), [giving praise to God always]. ¹⁶Let the word [spoken by] Christ (the Messiah) have its home [in your hearts and minds] and dwell in you in [all its] richness, as you teach and admonish and train one another in all insight and intelligence and wisdom [in spiritual things, and as you sing] psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody to God with [His] grace in your hearts. ¹⁷And whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus and in [dependence upon] His Person, giving praise to God the Father through Him.</p>	<p>¹⁴Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.</p>

Love is what pulls all of the attributes and behaviors in the previous verses together. Believers will never enjoy mutual fellowship through compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, or patience; they will not bear with each other or forgive each other unless they love one another. To even have the attitudes or do the behaviors listed in verses 12 and 13 without them being motivated by love is nothing more than legalism.

The word peace in verse 15 includes both the concept of an agreement and an attitude of security. Prior to being justified believers are not at peace with God, because of man's rebellion against God. Once a person is justified by faith they are at peace with God and the instruction of this verse is that peace should rule in their heart. Peace should rule (to guide and direct) the believer in their relationships with others. Believers are called to live in "peace" and "unity in one body". If that peace and unity does not exist among believers, does the believer have peace with God? To maintain a peaceful heart a believer has to "be thankful" in response to all that God has done for them, just as Paul reminds the believers in Ephesus as is recorded in Ephesians 5:20.

The “word of Christ” is to “dwell”, which means “to live in” or “to be at home” in the heart of the believer, not only to just dwell, but to dwell “richly”. To richly dwell in something it must be abundant or extravagant. In order for this to be accomplished the believer must be reading daily and meditating on the Scriptures. The Word of Christ dwelling in the believer brings about results of “wisdom”, which is the positive side of Truth teaching correct behavior and “admonishing”, which is the negative side of Truth warning the believer of the consequences of their behavior. Having the Word of Christ dwelling in the believer also produces an emotional result of “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God”.

The focal verses are summed up in verse 17 giving instruction to the believer that “whatever you do in word or deed” is to be done “in the name of the Lord Jesus”. To do everything in the name of Jesus is to act consistently with who He is and what He wants. To act in this lifestyle is to “make no provision for the flesh in regards to its lusts”.
(Romans 13:14)

What would it look like in your life if you did ALL word and deed, which includes but is not limited, to parenting, shopping, talking, working, driving, eating, and serving “in the name of the Lord Jesus”?

Reflection for the next week:

Keep a journal of all words and deeds that were not done “in the name of the Lord Jesus”. Pray to the Lord to show you how in the future you can keep these and all actions “in the name of the Lord Jesus”, which is “giving thanks through Him to God the Father”.