

# THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST

## The Fullness of Deity Dwelling in Christ

### *Living Like the Chosen Ones*

Colossians 3:12-17

**Intro:** moving more deeply into the character of a believer who is living under the control of the Holy Spirit, Paul describes the attitudes and behaviors of those through whom Christ is living His life:

#### I. The General Attitude and Demeanor of a Spirit Filled Believer

- A. Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
- B. Regardless of spiritual gifts (such as mercy or encouragement), and regardless of temperament, certain characteristics of Christ will be manifest in everyone who yields to the Holy Spirit.
- C. These temperament characteristics may not manifest in everyone in exactly the same way...introverts will still be introverts and extroverts will still be extroverts, excitable people will likely still be a bit hyper and quiet people will likely remain reserved...but the inward attitudes and outward graces will reflect this nature of Christ.

#### II. The Behavior Toward Fellow Believers in the Body of Christ

- A. Bearing with one another—simply being graciously tolerant as everyone is in a different stage of development.
- B. Forgiving each other...whoever has a complaint— it is quickly under the blood and in the same total and gracious way that Christ has forgiven each one of us. There is no room for judgment or harboring a complaint against anyone when we truly realize how much God has forgiven us (and how much He endures still) through Christ.

#### III. The Bond of Unity & The Peace of God

- A. Put on love—it is the glue that causes us to stick together (Eph. 4:13-17) and brings unity, which is not the same as agreeing on everything but rather is cherishing one another more highly than the goals, objectives, and methods.
- B. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts—this is not a sense of inward peace so much as it is a peace with one another (a lack of contention and strife).
- C. And be thankful—gratitude is a great game changer in one's general personality and spirit. A grateful person is usually a joyful person who recognizes God's blessings and blesses others.

#### IV. Practical Encouragement and Exhortation in the Body of Christ

- A. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you,
- B. With all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
- C. Singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God
- D. All done in the name of the Lord Jesus with thankfulness

Colossians 3:12-17

*So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let 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. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.) Read I John 3:11-18. Now think of the person in our church that irritates you or whom you dislike the most. Do you find yourself yearning for that person to experience God's best for their life? Do you desire to see them grow and mature spiritually? Do you hurt for them when they suffer or have difficulties? Do you even ever think about them? Why or why not? Does your heart reflect the fullness of God's Holy Spirit in your life?
- 2.) Many times in Paul's letters he reminds his readers to be thankful. He demonstrated this in the Philippian jail when he and Silas had been beaten and thrown into the dungeon and they sang songs and praised God in the middle of the night. Do you find yourself being grateful to God for what you have despite what you may be lacking? Is your heart filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit regardless of negative circumstances which may be in your life? In this regard, does your heart reflect the fullness of God's Holy Spirit in your life?
- 3.) Are you willing to be an exhorter and an encourager to others in the church? Considering Jesus' admonition to pay attention to the log in your own eye before you attempt to remove a splinter from another's and Paul's admonition in this Colossian passage about how to exhort one another, how are you doing? What is the difference between judgmentalism and spiritual encouragement and exhortation? Does your life reflect the character of God in this regard?
- 4.) Compare Colossians 3:16 with Joshua 1:8. In what ways are they similar and in what ways do they differ? How do you let the word of Christ richly dwell within you? Does it dwell richly in you? How are you doing in this aspect of the Spirit filled life?
- 5.) Does this life seem too hard? Do you think Paul is just setting the bar high in hopes that some people will at least make some effort to reach it even though it is impossible? Do you think it is possible? If so, how?

### NOTES

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