

“Clothed with Christ”
Jesus at the Center of It All—Part 10
Colossians 3:10-17

Sin is like an empty well.
It promises satisfaction and leaves you empty.
Sin never brings happiness!

1. Spiritual maturity is not instant.

... put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. *Colossians 3:10-11*

***There is no growth in the Christian life
apart from knowledge!***

• **The Word of God is the food that fuels growth.**

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.
1 Peter 2:2-3

In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. *Hebrews 5:12-14*

How fast a believer grows depends on how much knowledge he or she puts into practice.

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
John 8:31-32 (NLT)

***One of the evidences of knowing Christ
is the willingness to receive and love others
who know Christ and seek to glorify Him.***

2. Recognizing God's grace, as God's chosen people.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in

perfect unity.

Colossians 3:12-14

- **Chosen by God**—If God saved the sinner on the basis of his merit or works, nobody would be saved. (Titus 3:4-5)
- **Set apart by God**—We are not our own; we belong completely to Christ. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- **Loved by God**—Love is the strongest, motivating power in the world. (Eph. 2:4-5)
- **Forgiven by God**—God's forgiveness is complete and final. (Col. 2:13-14)

Because of God's gracious blessing, the believer has some serious responsibilities!

What does spiritual maturity look like?

- **Compassion**—this is not something we turn on and turn off like a TV. It is the constant attitude of the heart that makes us easy to live with.
- **Kindness**—the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.
- **Humility**—A person with humility thinks of others first.
- **Gentleness**—The word is actually meekness. Meekness is not weakness but power under control.
- **Patience**—When a person is patient, they can put up with provoking people and circumstances with out retaliating.
- **Bear with one another**—literally means to "hold back" judgment.
- **Forgiveness**—is the result of clothing one's self with the previous graces. It keeps no record of wrongs, for if we do, malice will develop in our hearts.
- **Love**—holds all these virtues together. All the virtues mentioned are aspects of true Christian love. (1 Corinthians 13)

3. Living in the peace of Christ.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15

- **When we obey the will of God, we have His peace!**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

- **Peace in the church is our calling as members.**

So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. Romans 14:19 (NLT)

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Philippians 1:27

- **A heart at peace overflows with praise.**

4. Dwelling in the Word of Christ, transforms us

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

- ***Dwell means to “feel at home.”*** Does the Word of God feel at home in your life?
- ***The Word dwelling in us will affect the way we teach and sing.***

Three aspects of our singing together in church:

- **Psalms**—We are to sing scripture, especially the Psalms.
- **Hymns**—Songs of praise directed to God.
- **Spiritual songs**—Songs that express spiritual truth to one another, and they express what God has done for us.

Hymns are not a genre. They are a focus where God is the center of our praise. In Spiritual songs, we address each other with truth and testimony.

5. Identifying with Christ, our highest motivation.

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

- ***Whatever you do, identify with Christ!***
- ***Whatever you do, do with the authority of Christ!***

Application: Do not allow anything into your life that cannot be associated with the Name of Jesus Christ. Do your words and deeds associate you with Jesus?