

Colossians 3 Outline

1A General exhortations on the basis of positional truth, vv.1-4:

1B Seek the above because of the position above, 1: Therefore if you were raised together with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

2B Think the above because of the secret position in Christ's death, vv.2-3:

1C The exhortation, 2: Think the things above, not the things on the earth.

2C The reason, 3: For you died, and your life is hidden together with Christ in God.

3B The sharing of the revelation of Christ, 4: Whenever Christ is revealed, our life, then also you together with Him will be revealed in glory.

2A Commands against sin, vv.5-11:

1B First command, put to death, vv.5-7:

1C Command to put to death the faculties of the body as they relate to sin, 5: Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth, fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and greediness, which is idolatry,

2C The cause of divine discipline, 6: because of which comes the wrath of God on the sons of disobedience.

3C The former way of life for the Colossians, 7: In which also you then walked, when you lived in them.

2B Second command, put off specific sins, vv.8-11:

1C The command to put off, 8-9a: 8 But now you yourselves also put off all these things, wrath, anger, evil, blasphemy, shameful speech from your mouth; 9 Do not lie to one another,

2C The reason for the putting off, 9b-10a: since you put off the old man together with his deeds, 10 and were clothed with the new,

3C The result of the new clothing, 10b-11: being renewed to full knowledge according to the image of the one who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but the all and in all is Christ.

3A Commands toward Virtue, vv.12-31 (4:6)

1B A list of virtues, vv.12-13:

1C The command, 12a: Therefore, as chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on

2C The mental attitude virtues, 12b-13: 12b tender mercies, kindness, lowly-thinking, gentleness, longsuffering, 13 bearing one another, and forgiving each other, if anyone has a complaint toward anyone; just as also Christ forgave you, so also you;

2B The greatest of the virtues, 14: Now above all these is love, which is the bond of completeness.

3B More mental attitude virtues, 15: And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and become thankful.

- 4B The Indwelling of the Word and the way of the Word, 16:** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing yourselves, in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual odes, singing in grace in your heart to the Lord.
- 5B The way for all endeavors, 17:** And all of whatever you do, in word or in deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the God and Father through Him.
- 6B Specific virtues for marriage, vv.18-19:**
- 1C For wives, 18:** Wives, obey your own husbands, as it is proper in the Lord.
 - 2C For husbands, 19:** Husbands, love your wives, and do not be bitter toward them.
- 7B Specific virtues for the family, vv.20-21:**
- 1C Children, 20:** Children, obey your parents according to all things, for this is well pleasing in the Lord.
 - 2C Fathers, 21:** Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become despondent.
- 8B Specific virtues for slaves and masters, vv.22-26 (4:1):**
- 1C Slaves, vv.22-25:**
 - 1D Whole-person obedience, 22:** Slaves, obey in all things your human masters, not in eye-service as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.
 - 2D The ultimate direction of the obedience, 23:** And whatever you might do, work from the soul, as to the Lord and not to men,
 - 3D The reason for ultimate direction obedience, 24:** knowing that you will receive the reward of the inheritance from the Lord. For you serve the Lord Christ.
 - 4D Justice for the wrong-doer, 25:** But the one who does wrong will be repaid what he has done; and there is no partiality.
 - 2C Masters, 26 (4:1):** Masters, grant justice and fairness to slaves, knowing that also you have a Lord in the heavens.
- 9B Three final commands, vv.27-31 (4:2-6)**
- 1C Prayer, 27: (4:2)** Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it in thanksgiving,
 - 1D Content of prayer toward the Gospel, 28 (4:3):** at the same time praying about us, that God might open to us a door for the Word, to speak the mystery of Christ, because of whom also I have been enchained,
 - 2D For Paul to speak as necessary, 29 (4:4):** that I may reveal it as it is necessary for me to speak.
 - 2C Conduct toward outsiders, 30 (4:5):** Walk in wisdom toward those outside, redeeming the time.
 - 3C Words toward outsiders, 31 (4:6):** Let your speech always be in grace, seasoned with salt, to know how it is necessary for you to answer each one.