

## **Colossians 3 Study Outline**

Paul in Chapter 1 & 2, described our privileges by Christ and our discharge from the yoke of the ceremonial law, comes here to press upon us our duty as believers in Christ. Though we are made free from the obligation of the ceremonial law, it does not allow us to live as we wish. We must walk the more closely with God in all the instances of evangelical obedience. He begins with exhorting them to set their hearts on heaven, and take them off from this world:

### **I. In Personal Purity (3:1–11)**

“Since you are risen with Christ, set your mind (affection) on things above!” (v. 1) In other words, let your earthly practice be worthy of your heavenly position. Once you were dead *in* sin (Eph. 2:1–3), but now you are dead *to* sin. Christ is in you, the hope of glory (1:27), and someday soon that glory will be revealed (v. 4). In brief, Paul says, “Live up to what Christ has done for you!” This simple principle of Christian living is more powerful than all the rules and regulations men can devise. “You are made full in Him” (2:10); now live out that fullness in daily life.

### **II. In Christian Fellowship (3:12–17)**

In Christ there are no barriers (v. 11); we are one in Him, and He is All. If Christ is preeminent in our lives, then we will be able to get along with others for His glory. If there are differences, the peace of God will be “umpire” (rule) in our hearts as we feed on the Word and worship Christ. Christian fellowship in the local church cannot be legislated by a constitution, although constitutions are useful; true fellowship must come from within, from the hearts of the believers.

### **III. In the Home (3:18–21)**

The first place our Christian faith should go to work is in the home. “Let them learn first to show piety at home,” commands 1 Tim. 5:4. If the wife is drawing her spiritual nourishment from Christ, the Head (2:19), then she will be submissive and obedient for Christ’s sake.

### **IV. In Daily Work (3:22–4:1)**

Slaves were attached to households in Paul’s day, but we can apply these same truths to Christian employers and employees today. Paul reminds servants that they have masters according to the flesh as well as a heavenly Master, Christ. The Christian employee is to work to honor and please Christ. “Eyeservice” (v. 22) means working when the employer is watching. But the heavenly Master is always watching! We are not to be men-pleasers, but Christ-pleasers.