

PUTTING HEART INTO YOUR CHRISTIANITY

COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

INTRODUCTION:

1. Some people make Christianity all about the emotions without thought to doctrine and obedience.
2. To put heart into your Christianity, be more committed to Jesus than you are to man-made traditions.

I. LIVE FOR JESUS

- A. Put to death your members.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 3.5:** *“Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth”* What things?
 2. The Holy Spirit provides a list. (Col. 3.5)
 3. These things provoke the wrath of God. (Col. 3.6)
- B. Put off some things.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 3.7,8:** *“put off all these”* What things?
 2. The Holy Spirit provides a list. (Col. 3.8)
- C. Put off the old man.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 3.9:** *“Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds”*
 2. Live for Jesus, not yourself. (1 John 2.15,16; Gal. 2.20)

II. DEVELOP THREE MINDSETS

- A. Remember who you are.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 3.12:** *“as the elect of God.”*
 2. **COLOSSIANS 3.12:** *“holy”* Hagios, separated.
 3. **COLOSSIANS 3.12:** *“beloved.”* Loved by God.
- B. Remember what you are.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 3.12:** *“put on tender mercies...”*
 2. **COLOSSIANS 3.13:** *“bearing with...and forgiving”*
- C. Remember where you are.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 3.14:** *“put on love...”*
 2. **COLOSSIANS 3.15:** *“you are called in one body.”*
 3. **COLOSSIANS 3.16,17:** *“in the name of the Lord Jesus”*

CONCLUSION: It’s what is on the inside that counts.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

JANUARY 12, 2025

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

January 12, 2025

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

TRAINING THE CONSCIENCE

The conscience is that feeling or sense within us that provokes feelings of guilt when we have done that which we believe is wrong.

It is important to note that the conscience, by itself, is not adequate enough to tell the difference between right and wrong. Indeed, there are times when one may break the laws of God, but because he did not perceive them as sin, his conscience would not be bothered. Although Paul tried to destroy the church, he confessed that *“I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day”* (Acts 23.1).

In contrast, the conscience may be bothered by something that is not against the laws of God. Under the Old Law, the Jews were forbidden to eat meat sacrificed to idols. But under the law of Christ, no such restriction was in place. However, because their conscience had been trained that eating certain meats was sinful, it bothered their conscience to do so. (1 Cor. 8.7,8).

How do we train our conscience? We train it by the word of God. Paul wrote that he was not lying, *“my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit”* (Rom. 9.1). When we are influenced by the Holy Spirit (the word of God), the scriptures confirm our guilt or our innocence. CLP

PUTTING HEART INTO YOUR CHRISTIANITY

COLOSSIANS 3:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible heart is a complex subject referring to several different things. For our thoughts, the heart refers to the emotions.
2. Some Christians live by focusing on the intellectual aspect of Christianity, but they don't have a lot of emotions.
3. Is it possible to know the heart of man? (cf. Luke 6.45)
4. How can we put more heart into our Christianity?

I. GOD WANTS YOUR CHRISTIANITY TO HAVE HEART

A. **HEBREWS 8.10:** *"I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts"*

1. The Christian life is governed by laws. (Gal. 6.2)
2. God puts His laws *"in their minds"* The intellect.
3. God writes His laws *"on their hearts."* The emotions.

B. **HEBREWS 10.16:** *"I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them"*

1. God puts His laws *"into their hearts."* The emotions.
2. God writes His laws *"in their minds"* The intellect.

C. The emphasis of our lives is to be both on the intellect and the emotions. We live by the emotions guided by intellect.

II. BE COMMITTED TO CHRIST

A. The context of Colossians 3.

1. **COLOSSIANS 3.1:** *"If then you were raised with Christ"*
2. Colossians 2 is all about rejecting human traditions in favor of the teachings of Christ. (Col. 2.8,16,20,22)
3. Some brethren are more concerned with keeping traditions than they are listening to Jesus.

B. Centering your life around Jesus.

1. **COLOSSIANS 3.1:** *"seek those things which are above where Christ is."* Seek: Pursue with passion.
2. **COLOSSIANS 3.2:** *"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."* Set: To fixate. (Phil. 3.14,15)
3. **COLOSSIANS 3.3,4:** *"Christ who is your life"* Saturate: Fill your life with Jesus.

CONCLUSION: The life of a Christian is to be a life filled with intellect and emotion. Are you a Christian?

BIBLE CONTRADICTIONS?

The Bible is not a single book, but a compilation of sixty-six different books that were written by forty different men. These men came from different backgrounds. They spoke different languages. They lived in different places. They came from different economic circumstances. Yet their messages are the same because their words came from a single source. Peter tells us that *"holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"* (2 Pet. 1.21). If there are contradictions in the Bible, it would cast doubt on the entire Bible, for if the scriptures did not agree, then they could not have come from God. Critics often point out apparent contradictions, but when these passages are examined in their proper context, no contradictions exist.

Consider the example taken from 1 Corinthians 10.8. In this passage, reference is made to an Old Testament account when the children of Israel committed sexual immorality. As a result of their sin, God punished the nation of Israel. Our text tells us that *"in one day twenty-three thousand fell"* (1 Cor. 10.8). If I turn to the Old Testament account that is being referenced, I find that the actual number is not twenty-three thousand. In Numbers 25, we are told that *"those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand"* (Num. 25.9). Critics are quick to point out the discrepancy. If Paul was mistaken, Paul could not have written this book by inspiration. How do we explain this apparent contradiction?

There are a number of possible and viable explanations. It very well could be that Paul was not referring to Numbers 25 at all, but an entirely different account. It is possible that Numbers 25 refers to all the people who were killed, while Paul is referencing only a certain subgroup. However, it seems from the text, there is a simple explanation.

Paul offered a time frame in his letter to the Corinthians. He wrote that twenty-three thousand fell *"in one day."* If I study the account in Numbers 25, there is no time frame referenced meaning that the twenty-four thousand that is mentioned probably referred to the total number who died. It is very possible that in bulk of the punishment came on the first day that killed twenty-three thousand. Then another thousand were killed over the next number of days bringing the total to twenty-four thousand.

There is a reason by Paul told Timothy to *"be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Tim. 2.15). When you take the time to study, contradictions disappear.

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