

APR. 1, 2018

Study Page: Col. 3:9-15

The Rule of the Peace of Christ

Reading Colossians 3:9-15

Carefully follow the train of thought here. Preachers have forever said to Christians, “do not lie.” A strong motive is here attached to that prohibition: “...seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator.”

In other words, **since you have been converted from the old to the new –**

DO NOT LIE. Prohibitions are easier to keep if the stakes are high and the motives clear. The stakes could not be higher (verse 6), and the motive could not be deeper – **I am a Christian; I do not lie!**

Here is an important part of this: “**...being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator.**”

Every day a Christian continues to be committed to the Lord and is nourished by the Word – knowledge is refined, renewed and reviewed. It is not like worldly knowledge or philosophy (see 2:8). It is – in origin – “after the image of its Creator.” Every word from God reflects and conforms to His divine image. Since we were made in His image (Gen. 1:27), the knowledge we need is the knowledge He imparts in His written revelation. One part of that received knowledge is, avoid dishonest; “do not lie.”



Colossians:

Study Page: Col. 3:9-15



“Here, there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.”

Do you know what an “exclusive club” is? In the town where I grew up, there was – and still is – the Hardscrabble Country Club, established in 1926. When I was a boy, the “social class” we belonged to meant – we had no access to Hardscrabble property or venues. You had to have a certain income and status and be nominated and voted on. Until the late 1960’s, it was “white only.” Some of that has changed in modern times, but membership still cost thousands of dollars, plus a monthly fee. It is – like many others around the country – an exclusive country club.

The Lord’s church is not like that! The distinctions so strongly enforced in worldly society have no meaning in Christ. The things that separate people in society – like money, education, race, age, nationality – **have no meaning in Christ.**

So, there is a beauty of diversity in the body of Christ. One comes into this relationship by being buried with Christ in baptism and raised with

Christ (see previous verses 2:12 & 3:1). **What you were before doesn't even get in the door!** Buried with Christ in baptism, we are united with Him, no matter how bad we were or how different we are in neutral or cultural matters. That's the point of verse eleven.

What does this mean to Christians today? *"Put on, then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other, as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."*

Conversion is so well articulated here, in the behavior results. When one is buried with Christ in baptism to be raised with Him into relationship with God – the behavior results ought to be embraced with joy and become fully apparent. In particular, the dispositional traits identified in verses 12-15. I should not only want to have these virtues in my life, I should want to grow them, adorn them and let them please God and nurture others. The forgiveness (after the Lord's model of forgiveness) becomes much easier when the related attitudes are embraced. If I am a child of God – part of the elect of God – these are the identifying marks of that life: *tenderness, kindness, humility, meekness and being longsuffering.*

Remember who you are! As a Christian, you are (1) raised with Christ, (2) "Your life is hidden

with Christ in God," (3) you are a new person, (4) "God's chosen."

"And above all these things, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."