

## Managing Our Life God's Way

### Colossians 3:1-17

7/20/10

**Introduction:** As Pastor Rick Warren said in his multi-zillion selling book **The Purpose Driven Life**, "It's not about you". Life has always been about God. God is the creator of all and of all creation, including me and you. We exist to bring Him glory (**Isaiah 43:7**). So it starts with God and not us. If we are making decisions based on what makes us happy, then we have our priorities backwards. God is not some egomaniac, but He will not be second to anyone (**Exodus 20:3**). In our lesson tonight, we are going to see how the Word of God teaches us how to manage our life.

#### Verses 1-7

#### Hearts

In verse 2, Paul tells us to set our affections on things above. Our thoughts and emotions come directly from our hearts (**Proverbs 23:7**). The desires of this earth and of fleshly things should be far from us. We should keep our eyes on Jesus and Heaven. As Christians, we ought to be dead to the lusts of this earth, but alive to heavenly thoughts and deeds (**Romans 5:21**). God gave us a new heart when we received the gift of salvation (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). Although God gave us a new heart, keeping it healthy requires some discipline on our part (**Romans 12:1-2**). We are responsible for the choices we make. We can make poor ones or good ones, whichever we make will impact the spiritual quality of our walk with God. Anything less than total commitment to the Lord will set us up for compromises that could hurt us later. Without a consistent effort to remain focused, our sinful nature can take over and control our lives. We should look towards the Lord who is the One that helps us in every situation (**Psalms 121:1-2**). Notice Paul uses the word "Mortify" in verse 5. "Mortify" means to totally do away with. The desire to commit any of these sins must be put to death so the Spirit can grow. Also, just because you don't see your sin on this list, doesn't mean you are innocent. The Word of God specially says all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (**Romans 3:23**).

## Verses 8-14

### Habits

In these verses, we see Paul telling us we need to put off (change) our old habits (2 **Corinthians 5:17**). It's hard to break old habits if we don't replace them with something else. All of the sins mentioned in verse 8 are part of that old fleshly man. The Life (Holy Spirit) that is presently in us is the Lord working through us. The words of our mouth speak what is in our heart. The text tells us not to lie one to another. We know the devil is the father of lies (**John 8:44**). **Filthy** communication comes from the mouth of the lost (**Ephesians 4:29**). Our mouths have caused more killings than a nuclear bomb. The tongue is extremely hard to tame. We should try our best to watch what we say. Verse 13 tells us we need to forgive. Our Heavenly Father requires us to **restore** earthly fall-outs. We cannot live in peace with others without learning to **manage** forgiveness. We need to learn to let go of anger and resentment. Real forgiveness includes the release of anger and it seeks restoration, not **retaliation**. It is no fun to be hurt, wronged or betrayed, but it does no good to hang onto hurt and continue to be angry. There is much more to be gained from forgiveness than from unforgiveness. The key to forgiveness is wrapped up in the word love. This is love in spite of what a person has done to you, not because of what they can do for you.

## Verses 15-17

### Happiness

These verses tell us that true peace will bring happiness, but we are responsible for **allowing** happiness into our hearts. Verse 15 begins by saying, "Let the peace". We must be willing to allow it in us. We choose to be happy or sad. Sadness does not come from living alone just like happiness does not come from "happy hour" at the bar. True joy and happiness can only come from the Lord because He is our strength (**Nehemiah 8:10**) (**Psalms 118:24**). Happy people can bring peace within a group. Unhappy and unsatisfied people can bring **contention** into a group. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Verse 15 reminds us to try to encourage one another with the Word of the Lord and through songs. Music can set the tone, but only the Word saves the soul. When there is an atmosphere of Word and worship, His glory fills the place. Notice, the singing is not for performance, but to encourage men and women to **prepare** their hearts to receive the Word. Verse 17 tells us whatever we do, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and always remember to give thanks to God the Father. When we manage our lives God's way, we will receive total **contentment** in our lives.

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