

The General Electric Power Company Series

Galatians | Ephesians | Philippians | **Colossians**

Lesson #19 – Colossians 3

Main Idea

Colossians 3 is a powerful call to live a new life in Christ. Paul encourages believers to set their hearts and minds on things above, putting to death old, sinful habits and embracing virtues like compassion, humility, and love. The chapter highlights the importance of unity in the body of Christ (as Paul has done in every epistle in this series!), healthy relationships, and doing everything in the name of Jesus. It's a practical, inspiring guide for living a Christ-centered life every day.

Overview of Chapter 3

3:1 – 17 Living as Those Made Alive in Christ
3:18 – 25 Instructions for Christian Households

Questions for Consideration

1. The first 17 verses of Colossians 3 set the tone for this chapter, especially the phrase, “set your hearts on things above.” This is obviously easier said than done! Provide below examples of times when you **did** and **did not** set your heart on things above and what were the consequences for each.

DID:

DID NOT:

2. In verses 12 through 17 we read Paul’s admonition to the Colossians church to get along and forgive offenses.
 - a. What happens when we are not easily offended and quick to forgive (consider impact on the church)?
 - b. What happens when we are easily offended and slow to forgive (consider impact on the church)?
3. Verses 18 through 21 provide a powerful framework for building a successful and “fully functioning” family. Read the verses below and answer the following questions. **Notice that 50% are directed at men!**
 - ¹⁸ Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
 - ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.
 - ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
 - ²¹ Fathers,^[c] do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.
 - a. What does it look like for a wife to **submit** to her husband?
 - b. What does it look like for a husband to not be **harsh** with his wife?
 - c. What does it look like for children to **obey** their parents?
 - d. What does it look like for a father to not **embitter** their children?
4. I can’t think of a better description of how to live the Christian life than what we read in verses 15 through 17, which talk about setting our minds on things above, being thankful, encouraging and exhorting each other, and doing in the name of Jesus. What resonates most for you in reading these verses?



Colossians 3 (NIV)

Living as Those Made Alive in Christ

¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your^[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.^[b] ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Instructions for Christian Households

¹⁸ Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

²¹ Fathers,^[c] do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

Footnotes

- a. [Colossians 3:4](#) Some manuscripts *our*
- b. [Colossians 3:6](#) Some early manuscripts *coming on those who are disobedient*
- c. [Colossians 3:21](#) *Or Parents*

