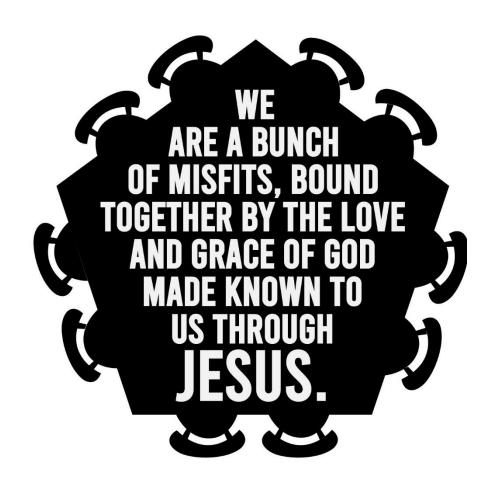


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COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

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

⁵Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry.

⁶Because of these, God's wrath is coming upon the disobedient, ⁷and you once walked in these things when you were living in them. ⁸But now, put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator. ¹¹In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. ¹⁴Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What qualities does the author call Christians to embody?
2. Given the type of people in the Colossian church, why do you think the author mentioned these character qualities?
3. Why does the author mention psalms, hymns and songs?
4. What do you think it means that "In Christ there is not Greel and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free, but Christ is all and in all"?
YOUR NEXT STEP What is a step that you can take to apply today's teaching?
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