

Colossians 3: 5-8 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God (1 Peter 1: 13-21).

"We tend to think that the worst thing that could happen to us is to suffer misfortune, tragedy, unanswered prayers, or death. But in truth, the worst thing that could happen is that we don't become more like Jesus" (Steven James, Flirting with the Forbidden, p. 124)

**Prayer:** "But now you must put them all away." We all struggle with sin, and yet we have received victory over sin through Christ our Lord and the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. Recognize God's victory over your life, and continue to pray for recognition and victory over areas of sin that may continue to hamper your walk with God.



## Colossians 3:9-10 Do not lie to one another, 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.

"The commandment to imitate Jesus does not appear suddenly in a world exempt from imitation; rather it is addressed to everyone that mimetic rivalry has affected. Non-Christians imagine that to be converted they must renounce an autonomy that all people possess naturally, a freedom and independence that Jesus would like to take away from them. In reality, once we imitate Jesus, we discover that our aspiration to autonomy has always made us bow down before individuals who may not be worse than we are but who are nonetheless bad models because we cannot imitate them without falling with them into the trap of rivalries in which we are ensnarled more and more." — René Girard

"Putting on Christ'...is not one among many jobs a Christian has to do; and it is not a sort of special exercise for the top class. It is the whole of Christianity. Christianity offers nothing else at all." - C. S Lewis

**Prayer:** Pray for God to continue to shape you into the image of His son - that when people see you - they see Jesus. For we praise God for being made in His image and yet our sin has broken the reflection. Pray that the good work that God has begun will continue until you are perfected in His image (Philippians 1:6).



## Colossians 3:11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

"Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers met together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship." — A.W. Tozer

**Prayer:** Our world is obsessed with division, and it is all too easy to get caught up in the whirlwind. Pray, however, that your heart will be moved to see all people as those who were made in the image of God - who are loved and desired for salvation. This begins with a heart seeking after God which then reflects His love to all people. Pray for your neighbours, your "enemies "and everyone else in between.



Colossians 3:12-14 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. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

**Prayer:** Pray to be continually overwhelmed by the love we have received from God and as you receive His love, that it will overflow to those within your proximity. Pray that God's heart will become your heart as you love those that He loves.



#### Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

"True peace is not found in the absence of trouble, but in the presence of Christ. When we allow His peace to rule in our hearts, we are able to face any challenge with confidence, knowing that He is with us and that His grace is sufficient for us." - Unknown

**Prayer:** Pray for peace in the midst of your circumstances. Of course, we all want peace (especially as we look at events of the world today) but what does it mean to have peace despite your circumstances - in and among your circumstances. This peace comes only from Christ. Therefore pray thanksgiving for Christ's victory over death and allow His victory to flood into all areas of your life.



# Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds. The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

**Prayer:** Spend some time in thanksgiving, praising God for His faithfulness in your life. No matter the ups and downs, praise God from whom all blessings flow.



## Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

"When we do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, we acknowledge His sovereignty over every aspect of our lives. Whether we're speaking, acting, working, or resting, our aim should be to honor and glorify Him in all that we do...In the Christian life, there are no mundane tasks or insignificant deeds. Everything we do, whether in word or deed, should be done with the awareness that we are representing Christ to the world. Let us therefore conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of His name, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." - Unknown

Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, (Ephesians 4:5-7)

**Prayer:** Pray for strength to pursue excellence in everything that you do - not for your own sake, but for the glory of God. In a culture that has recently coined the term "quiet quit" (doing the minimum requirements of one's job), it is all too easy to get stuck in a rut and begin going through the motions. Pray that every action and word will be motivated so that Jesus will increase as we decrease (John 3:30)