

Colossians 4:10-18

¹⁰ Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and also Barnabas's cousin Mark (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him); ¹¹ and also Jesus who is called Justus; these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision, and they have proved to be an encouragement to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³ For I testify for him that he has a deep concern for you and for those who are in Laodicea and Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and also Demas. ¹⁵ Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea and also Nympha and the church that is in her house. ¹⁶ When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea. ¹⁷ Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

CLOSING THOUGHTS

The reason why Paul can write to the Colossians that **JESUS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH** for them is because **JESUS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH** for him. His imprisonment and hardships did not discourage him from living out Christlikeness and it did not deter him from carrying out Christ centered concerns.

Colossians was not just a letter Paul wrote, it was a reflection of his own life. What kind of letter will be written by your life?

Practice of Christlikeness

INTRODUCTION

Paul was not just concerned about correcting false Christian teaching, he was equally concerned about true Christian living. So after clarifying the Person of Christ and pointing out the errors of philosophy, tradition, legalism, mysticism, asceticism, and syncretism, Paul now explains how the Colossian Christians can and should live out Christlikeness.

In a scale of 1 to 100, how would you rate your current Christlikeness?

100 is perfect Christlikeness

1 is most immature Christian

0 and negative is not a Christian

What is the basis for your rating?

How accurate is it?

More importantly, how can you progress towards Christlikeness?

STUDY OUTLINE

	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3	SESSION 4	
Opening Greetings (1:1–8)					Closing Greetings (4:7–18)
Prayer for Colossians (1:9–12)	Person of Christ (1:13–20)	Paul's Concern (1:21–2:5)	Principles of Christianity (2:6–23)	Principles of Christlikeness (3:1–4:6)	
	Christ and His Citizens (13–14)	Condition in Christ (1:21–22)	Communion with Christ (2:6–7)	Christ Centered Commitment (3:1–4)	
	Christ and His Creation (15–17)	Continue in Christ (1:23, 2:4–5)	Comprehension of Christ (2:8–15)	Christ Centered Character (3:5–11)	
	Christ and His Church (18)	Commission from Christ (1:24–25, 29–2:1)	Conscience in Christ (2:16–17)	Christ Centered Community (3:12–4:1)	
	Christ and His Cross (19–20)	Complete in Christ (1:26–28, 2:2–3)	Commanded by Christ (2:18–23)	Christ Centered Concerns (4:2–6)	

CHRIST CENTERED COMMITMENT (3:1-4)

Colossians 3:1-4

¹ Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² **Set your mind on the things above**, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Christ Centered Commitment

- Preoccupation (Keep Seeking)
 - What are our pursuits?
 - What are we passionate about?
 - What are we persistent with?
- Pondering (Set Your Mind)
 - What do we dream of?
 - What do we dwell on?
 - What is our disposition?

Christ Centered Commitment

“Things Above” refers to Christ, His Kingdom, and His Kingdom concerns. It is not “waiting to go to heaven” but bringing heavenly concerns here to earth. It is not just sacrificing and suffering presently here on earth to gain future rewards in heaven. It is presently living out heavenly realities while still on earth.

Take Home Project

For one whole week make a journal of your preoccupations and pondering. Aside from the routine of sleep, eating, hygiene, work/school/chores, commute/travel,

What takes up most of your time & thoughts?

CHRIST CENTERED CONCERNS (4:2-6)

Colossians 4:2-6

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; ³ praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; ⁴ that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. ⁵ Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. ⁶ Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

Christ Centered Concerns

- Committed to Praying
- Committed to Caring
- Committed to Sharing (the gospel)

Practice of Christlikeness

- **CHRIST CENTERED COMMITMENT**
- **CHRIST CENTERED CHARACTER**
- **CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY**
- **CHRIST CENTERED CONCERNS**

Colossians 4:7-9

⁷ As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information. ⁸ For I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts; ⁹ and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your number. They will inform you about the whole situation here.

Christ Centered Community

- Christlike Family
 - Submissive Wives
 - Loving Husbands
 - Obedient Children
 - Considerate Fathers/Parents

Colossians 3:22-4:1

Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. ²⁵ For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality. ^{4:1} Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

Christ Centered Community

- Christlike Society
 - Christlike Authorities: justice, fairness
 - Christ Centered Subjects: sincere obedience, Godward diligence

CHRIST CENTERED CHARACTER (3:5-11)



Colossians 3:5-8

⁵ Therefore **consider the members of your earthly body as dead** to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶ For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you also, **put them all aside:** anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.

Colossians 3:9-11

⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you **laid aside** the **old self** with its evil practices, ¹⁰ and have put on the **new self** who is **being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him**— ¹¹ a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

Christ Centered Character

- Motivation
 - We are presently dead to sin (live out our reality)
 - God will pour out future wrath because of sin (live out our identity)
 - Sin was our past life (leave behind our misery)

Christ Centered Character

- Take Off
 - Wrong Loves: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, greed
 - Willful Hate: anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech, lying

Christ Centered Character

- Willful hate
 - Anger: deep, simmering, smoldering bitterness
 - Wrath: sudden outburst of anger
 - Malice: bent on doing harm to others
 - Slander: insults, blasphemy against people
 - Abusive Speech: derogatory speech to hurt
 - Lying: deceitful words

Discuss

Of all the sins that can be specifically pointed out, why do you think Paul chose to bring up those related to sex and anger?

- Take Off
 - Wrong Loves: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, greed
 - Willful Hate: anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech, lying
- Put On
 - The New Self who is being renewed to become more and more like Christ.

CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY (3:12-4:1)

Colossians 3:12-17

¹² So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **put on** a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴ Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ **Let the peace of Christ** rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ **Let the word of Christ** richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Christ Centered Community

- Christlike Church
 - Christlike Heart: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness
 - Christlike Harmony: love, peace, thankfulness, mutual edification, corporate worship

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. (Colossians 3:17)

Colossians 3:18-21

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. ²⁰ Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.