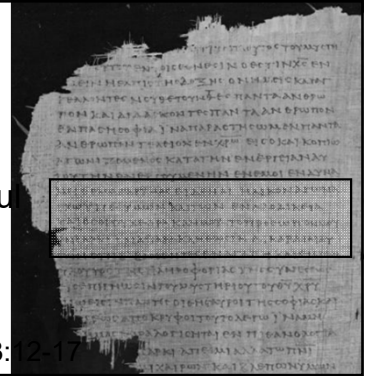


Colossians

Proclaiming the Supremacy of Christ

The Gaze of the Soul (part 3)

Colossians 3:12-17



Review From the Last Two Weeks (3:1-11)

- We are living a NEW life in Christ where we have been **buried** and **raised** with Him and our lives are now **hidden** with Him.
- By faith we set our “gaze” on Christ who is seated at the right hand of God.
- We are being transformed into the image of Christ.
- We are told (and we should desire) to “Put-off” anything (idols that act as functional gods) that would take our “gaze” off of Christ.

Chapter 3:12-17

- The “Put-Ons”
 - In verses 3:10-11 Paul begins a transition from a list of Put-offs by reminding us that we are to Put-on “the new self which is being renewed in the image of our Creator.”
 - Here Christ “is all” and “is in all.”
 - Therefore...we can look at the Put-ons.
- Three threads we are weaving.
 - The “Gaze of the Soul.”
 - The Transforming Life.
 - The Corporate Life in the Body of Believers.

Colossians 3:12-17

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




Colossians 3:12-17

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. 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.

Imperative
 Characteristic
 Community

Colossians 3:12-17

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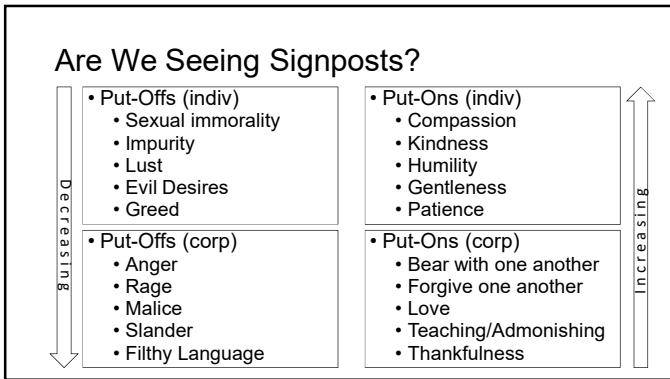
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Bonhoeffer on Life in Community

“Let him who cannot be alone beware of community... Let him who is not in community beware of being alone... Each by itself has profound perils and pitfalls. One who wants fellowship without solitude plunges into the void of words and feelings, and the one who seeks solitude without fellowship perishes in the abyss of vanity, self-infatuation and despair.”
 — Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community*

A Life of Transformation

“We who have died to ‘the elements of the world’ (3:3; 2:20) and to the power of sin (Rom. 6: 1-6) because of our union with Christ are to ‘become’ dead to sin in the realities of everyday life. But this ‘putting to death’ of sin is not only demanded by our incorporation into Christ; it is also empowered and effected by it. Union with Christ, because it puts us in a new relationship to sin and brings us into the sphere of the Spirit’s power, will impact the way we live. Ultimately, then, the imperative ‘put to death’ in this verse must be viewed as a call to respond to, and cooperate with, the transformative power that is already operative within us.” — *The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon* (The Pillar New Testament Commentary (PNTC)) by Douglas J. Moo



Conclusion

- Living this new life of transformation and renewal.
 - Let the old man who has died with Christ, be dead! (Put-Off)
 - Become what you are...(Put-On)
- "...a habit of soul is forming which will become after a while a sort of spiritual reflex..."—A.W. Tozer
- Let's look at a picture of what this would look like in our lives as children of God seeking Him and living in Christian Community?

Psalm 27

- 1) The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
 The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
- 2) When evildoers assail me
 to eat up my flesh,
 my adversaries and foes,
 it is they who stumble and fall.

1/7

Psalm 27

- 3) Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
 though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.
- 4) One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
 that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
 all the days of my life,
 to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
 and to inquire in his temple.

2/7

Psalm 27

- 5) For he will hide me in his shelter
 in the day of trouble;
 he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
 he will lift me high upon a rock.
- 6) And now my head shall be lifted up
 above my enemies all around me,
 and I will offer in his tent
 sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

3/7

Psalm 27

- 7) Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
 be gracious to me and answer me!
- 8) You have said, "Seek my face."
 My heart says to you,
"Your face, LORD, do I seek."

4/7

Psalm 27

- 9) Hide not your face from me.
 Turn not your servant away in anger,
 O you who have been my help.
 Cast me not off; forsake me not,
 O God of my salvation!
- 10) For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
 but the LORD will take me in.

5/7

Psalm 27

- 11) Teach me your way, O LORD,
 and lead me on a level path
 because of my enemies.
- 12) Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
 for false witnesses have risen against me,
 and they breathe out violence.

6/7

Psalm 27

13) I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!

14) Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!

7/7

A Life of Transformation

“C. S. Lewis argues that it takes a community of people to get to know an individual person. Reflecting on his own friendships, he observed that some aspects of one of his friend’s personality were brought out only through interaction with a second friend. That meant if he lost the second friend, he lost the part of his first friend that was otherwise invisible. “By myself I am not large enough to call the whole man into activity; I want other lights than my own to show all his facets.” If it takes a community to know an ordinary human being, how much more necessary would it be to get to know Jesus alongside others? By praying with friends, you will be able to hear and see facets of Jesus that you have not yet perceived.”