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Christian Living

Colossians 3, along with Ephesians 4 and Romans 12, are three chapters of scripture called 'Christian Living Chapters.' These chapters were never meant to be requirements for one to live up to in order to become a Christian, or to gain the love and approval of Jesus Christ.

Some would say that individuals are 'separated' from God and 'unsaved,' and that these 'requirements'—if lived out by the person—would place that person in a position for Christ to accept, love, and save them. Do we hear "WORKS" screaming out of that position?

What these chapters ARE dealing with is the description of behavior that reflects the life of Jesus Christ living in the person. This is how we are to live our life knowing WHO we are in Christ. These are descriptions of how Jesus lives. How He thinks. How He acts. They are reflections of the mind of Christ Paul mentions in Phil.2:5. "Let this mind be in you which was/is in Christ Jesus."

A person who walks in the flesh—who is motivated by selfish interests, vanity and by their carnal mind—finds it impossible to employ these godly characteristics in their life. (Romans 8).

BUT, when people see WHO they are in Jesus Christ and that Jesus lives His life in them and THROUGH them, then these elements of behavior will be manifested in their life. It really is not them doing these things and living in these ways, but it is Christ living in them who is the motivation for their life. He IS living this way and it is observed in the person through their actions.

Jesus is not some metaphysical mysterious magician who says the magic words "hocus pocus" over an individual and that person is now changed into the person described in the Christian living chapters of the Bible. No, Jesus along with the Father and the Holy Spirit INVADE the person's mind, heart, soul, being and life. The person lives and reflects this New Life empowered by the Triune God. The person grows in the Grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (2 Pet.3:18).

All of this is a description of the Union between God and man, which Jesus came to complete. This Union produces relationship. It is promoted by love. First God's love for us and then in response to God's love our love for God.

It is a way of life which God our Father desires for ALL of His children. He has secured it in Jesus Christ. It is available to and for all of mankind. This is the GOSPEL. This is Life.

~ Paul Kurts