

Activating Our Identity In Christ

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 3:9-25

Review

- As NT grace-believers, **half of our salvation consists of our position in Christ**
 - We have seen in Romans 6 and Ephesians 4 that **God now sees us to have put on the created New Man – “The Christ”**
 - Eph 2:15, Gal 3:27, I Cor 12:12
 - In Col 3:9-10 we again see our change of position and the associated works of that position – **previously in Adam, now in Christ**
 - In Col 3:11 we've seen emphasized **the absence** of distinctions among the members of the New Man

Review and Introduction

Now, in order to correspond to our position in Christ – in the **New Man** - (Col 3:12-14), we are instructed to mentally put on correctly:

IDENTITY

ATTITUDES

ACTIONS

Put on Correct **IDENTITY** Concerning ALL in Christ (Col 3:12a)

ELECT – Eph 1:3-4



HOLY – Rom 1:7 (“called saints”)



BELOVED – Rom 8:38-39

Put on Correct **ATTITUDES** Concerning ALL in Christ (Col 3:12b)

- “Bowels of mercy” – inner yearnings of pity
- “Kindness” – doesn’t mention the ‘elephant’... – Rom 2:4
- “Humility” – low-mindedness, towards one another – Phil 2:3-4
- “Meekness” – thinking objectively; seeing all in Christ – vs 11
- “Longsuffering” – long-burning toward others - cf Rom 14:1-3

Put on Correct **ACTIONS** Concerning ALL in Christ (Col 3:13-14)

- “Forbearing (holding up) one another”
 - Phil 2:3-4
- “Being gracious toward yourself (in Christ)”
 - cf Eph 4:32, II Tim 2:1
- “Being gracious toward other believers (who may have caused you to hold a complaint toward them), as Christ has been gracious to us”
 - cf Rom 14
- “Put on love over all these things”
 - Col 3:14, cf Eph 4:1-2

Allow God's
Peace to
"RULE in
Your Hearts"

- Col 3:15, cf Eph 4:3

- "Rule" = arbitrate

- make the final ruling

- "(Come to) be thankful"

- Recognize God's good
grace

Allow the Word Concerning “The Christ” to Dwell in You (Col 3:13)

“Richly” - with abundance and value

- “In all wisdom” – how to implement “in Christ” revelation”
 - By means of **teaching** (our identity in Christ)
 - By means of **admonishing ourselves** (our old identity and behavior in the Old Man – fallen Adam)
 - By **psalms** (praises)
 - By **hymns** (rehearsing God’s character)
 - By **spiritual odes** (spiritual odes in melodic, poetic form)
 - By **singing** with the grace IN YOUR HEARTS to the Lord (Eph 1:6, Col 1:6)

Summary of our Position and it's Resultant Activities

- “Let all our actions (in word or in deed) be done in a character and quality of the Lord Jesus, while at the same time giving thanks to God through Him” - Col 3:17