

Donna's Devotional

Not Carnality but Christ

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.—Colossians 3:17

Paul is writing to the Christians, those who have been raised with Christ. In Colossians 3:1-17, he gives explicit instructions about not living as the “old man,” one who is carnal, but living as the “new man,” one who is Christ like.

Paul tells us to *seek ...*, *to set our mind...*, *to put off...*, *to put to death...*, and *to put on...* All of these are action verbs. They are things we must DO. We are to “*seek those things that are above*,” and we are to “*set our minds on things which are above*.” We are to actively pursue the things that pertain to God and then we are to think about those things.

This is followed with a list of things we are to eliminate from our lives: fornication, uncleanness, evil desires, covetousness, anger, malice, blasphemy, and filthy language. We are not to lie.

In education we learn when we want to extinguish a behavior; we need to replace it with a positive behavior. The instructions in this passage tell us what those replacement behaviors should be. First, our knowledge and understanding will be new, so we will be able to produce Christ like behaviors. We are to be merciful, kind, humble, meek, long suffering, and forgiving. We are to bear one another’s burdens and “above all these things, put on love.”

The verb changes in verses 15 and 16. We are to “let” God do something in our lives. We are to let His peace rule in our lives. We are also to let the word of Christ dwell in us so that God can produce wisdom.

What beautiful instructions so that everything we do in our lives—our words and our actions—will bring glory to our wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ.