
Digging Deeper and Rising Higher

According to Colossians 3:1 and 12, what is the connection between “being” a Christ-follower, and righteous character?

What danger is there in overlooking personal character flaws? Does God care how His children act? In what ways is the pursuit of righteous character actually a measure of our obedience to, and love for, Jesus Christ?

Some Thoughts to Take With You

People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.

D.A. Carson

The serene, silent beauty of a holy life is the most powerful influence in the world, next to the might of God.

Blaise Pascal

Our Purpose, Our Privilege, Our Passion, Pt. 3 - *Loving*

Colossians 3:1-14

Introduction: Godly character does not just “happen.” God the Spirit matures us in righteousness even as we make the pursuit of righteousness our passion. To our **Learning** we add **Loving**: *pursuing and displaying the character of Christ*

Some Basic Principles

Colossians 3:1-4

Dying and living: *following Christ*

Hidden and revealed: *living for Christ*

Some Powerful Challenges

Colossians 3:5-11

Unrighteous sexuality

Abusive speech

Paul’s point:

Some Troubling Considerations

Colossians 3:6, 7, 9b - 11

God’s wrath

Our past

Our privilege

The Privilege of Righteous Character

Colossians 3:12-14

Available in Christ

Modeled after Christ

A Plan for Loving

2 Timothy 2:22

Running from...

Running to...

Running with...

Applying God’s Truth to Our Lives ...

Sermon Notes

Our Purpose, Our Privilege, Our Passion, Pt. 3 - *Loving*

Colossians 3:1-14

Review: Complete People are those who are diligently pursuing maturity in their Learning, Loving, and Living:

- **Learning:** Christ teaching us
- **Loving:** Christ changing us
- **Living:** Christ using us

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Abusive speech

Paul’s point:

Unless you develop a controlling passion for righteousness, your unrighteous passions will too often overwhelm your godly intentions.

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Applying God’s Truth to Our Lives ...

1) Is it true that Jesus Christ is my life? Is He truly the Master of my life, and the Savior of my soul?

2) Are there elements of my character that just don’t measure up to what Jesus Christ - My Master - is asking of me? Which one most needs my immediate attention?

3) What am I going to do about it? And who am I going to enlist to help me pursue righteous changes in my life?