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2  **THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF INTENTIONAL CHRISTIAN LIVING**

Intentional Christian Living, Part 2

3  **Colossians 3:12-17**

• *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

4  **REMEMBER YOUR POSITION IN CHRIST**

THE GUARANTEE

5  **You are chosen**

• “Elect” = “chosen of God”  
– Deuteronomy 7:7-8 -- *The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: 8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

6  **You are sanctified**

• “Holy” = “sanctified”  
– You have been set apart to Christ.  
– You are not your own; you belong completely to Christ (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)  
• A marriage ceremony sets apart a husband and wife for each other.  
• So our receiving Christ (justification) sets us apart eternally for Christ.

7  **You are beloved**

• When an unbeliever sins, he breaks the laws of a holy Creator and Judge.  
• But when a believer sins, he breaks the heart of a loving Father who has made the ultimate sacrifice for Him.  
• Love – not law – is the supreme key to obedience.

8  **You are forgiven**

• Verses 13-14 – “Having forgiven you all trespasses”  
– Complete  
– Final  
– Unconditional  
– Why? FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

9  **It all adds up**

Chosen  
+ sanctified  
+ beloved  
+ forgiven

=

# GRACE

10  **REFLECT THE GRACE OF CHRIST**

THE GLORY

11  **You have received, now what?**

• Because you have received grace, now you should live out God's grace in our life.  
• Paul specifically names 8 graces you are to “put on” in your life.

12  **1. Put on tender mercies**

- “*Bowels of mercies*”
  - Deeper emotions (Greeks thought they resided in the intestines; we think of them as in our hearts)
  - Tender compassion toward one another
  - A constant attitude of the heart that should make us easier to live with

## 13 **2. Put on kindness**

- “*Be ye kind one to another*” (Ephesians 4:32)
- Why?
  - Because God has shown His kindness toward us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
  - Example:
    - Mephibosheth (Meribaal)
      - From condemned household
      - Cripple; no merits of his own
      - Invited to dine at the king’s table

## 14 **3. Put on humility**

- Pagan world admired pride and domination. Christ exemplified humility.
- Humility = “acknowledging that any good I may accomplish is the result of God and others working in my life”; “having a proper estimate of yourself in the will of God”
  - *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.* (Romans 12:3)

## 15 **4. Put on meekness**

- Power under control
  - Soothing wind
  - Healing medicine
  - Colt that has been broken
- Focuses on responsibilities rather than demanding rights
- Serves under authority

## 16 **5. Put on longsuffering**

- Literally, “long temper” or “the putting off of rage”
  - Short-tempered people lack self-control; they act impulsively
- Able to bear provoking circumstances, words, or people without retaliating
  - “The higher standard of care”
- Endurance until a goal is reached

## 17 **6. Put on forbearance**

- Put up with others because God is putting up with you
- “To accept others in spite of their flaws knowing that God isn’t through with either you or them yet”
- To endure irritations for the sake of preserving a relationship

## 18 **7. Put on forgiveness**

- “To bestow gracious pardon and blessing on those who have wronged you”
- Why?
  - Because Christ has forgiven you
  - Illustration of Hosea and Gomer

## 19 **8. Put on charity (love)**

- It is the bond (obligation or duty) of perfectness (maturity or completion)
- How mature is a Christian?
  - You can tell by the degree to which he / she demonstrates the love of Christ toward others
  - The mature Christian demonstrates all 8 of these INTENTIONAL character qualities
- Love is “above all” because if you have the love of Christ, you will automatically exhibit the other 7 qualities mentioned here

## 20 **RELY ON THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

THE GUIDANCE

21  **The source of this peace**

- Philippians 4:7-9 – “*And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*”

22  **The spheres of this peace**

- Internal -- “...in your hearts”
  - keeps you from caving in when the world is caving in around you
- External -- “in one body”
  - We are CALLED to peace in the local church -- the body of Christ. This requires common goals
    - To show Christ to others
    - To move together in the same direction
- Eternal (1 Corinthians 1:9) – “God is faithful” = the foundation of our peace

23  **The supervision of this peace**


- “Umpire”
  - Consider fasting and praying before a major decision
  - Don’t ignore the still small voice; don’t make a decision which destroys your peace or that of your spouse or authority
- Illustration of J. Sidlow Baxter
  - When the Word of God aligns with how I believe the Spirit is leading me and God arranges the circumstances to follow that leading, then I can know His will.

24  **The significance of this peace**

- Results in thanksgiving in spite of the circumstances (no conditions given)
- 8 things for which you can be thankful:
  - dishwashers
  - repair jobs
  - bathtub
  - children who put away things
  - gardening
  - teenagers
  - smoke alarms

25  **RUMINATE IN THE WORD OF CHRIST**

THE GROWING

26  **The extent of a dwelling Word**

- “Dwell” – *enoikeo* – To take up residence in the same house
  - Not a temporary visitor; but a permanent resident – one with authority to remodel.
  - Don’t just read your Bible; sit in the presence of God!
- Why? So His Words can start remodeling you from the inside.

27  **The effect of a dwelling Word**

- “Richly” – to have true and genuine wealth that brings security
  - To furnish rich provision for something
- “In all wisdom”
  - Begins with the fear of the Lord (which is aided by tithing / giving / sowing)
  - Wisdom is seeing life from God’s point of view and understanding His purposes in allowing certain circumstances to happen

28  **The expression of a dwelling Word**

- “Teaching and admonishing” – instruction and understanding that results in correct behavior
  - There is a famine in the land -- *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD* (Amos 8:11)
  - Find a church that focuses on the WORD – not on entertainment, movies, amusement, or being

contemporary.

29  **The excellence of God's music**

- In *"psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."*
- Note that Paul says that these three forms of music are to be a part of our worship and are to be sung with grace.
  - You need music based on God's Word written by those who knew God's Word.
  - A church can never rise above its hymnody (in the depth of its people)
- Pay attention to the order in this verse!

30  **Priority #1 -- Psalms**

- Psalms are God's words sung back to Him.
- The highest form of music – when we sing God's Words back to Him. We should return to this form of music in our church.
  - The highest worship
  - The greatest encouragement to others
  - The best form of meditation
- Where do you find this?
  - For Paul – Old Testament Scriptures
  - For us – Songs we take directly from Scripture

31  **Revelation 5:12-13**

- *Blessing and honor and glory be Thine,  
And glory be Thine,  
And glory be Thine.  
Blessing and honor and glory be Thine,  
Both now and evermore.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
All ye saints adore Him.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Both now and evermore.  
Hallelujah!*

32  **Psalm 118:24**

- This is the day, this is the day.  
That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,  
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day that the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day  
That the Lord has made.*


33  **Isaiah 26:3**

- Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee:  
Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee:  
Because he trusteth in thee  
He trusteth in thee O Lord!  
Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee.*
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34  **Priority #2 – Hymns**

- Hymns are songs written by believers with the words sung TO God
  - "How Great Thou Art"
  - "Great is Thy Faithfulness"
  - "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
- This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest form of music because it is an act of worship in which the soul of

the singer expresses love and adoration for the Redeemer.

35  **Priority #3 – Spiritual songs**

- Songs sung about God or about the Christian life which are meant to encourage one another (and not sung to the Lord)
  - “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”
  - “Amazing Grace”
  - “Dwelling in Beulah land”
- These songs are good but should take a back seat in our worship to psalms and hymns.

36  **Avoid fakes!**

- Musical performances done for the sake of entertainment
- Music that lies – teaching you things that are contrary to God’s Word
  - Many songs today are written by people that do not have knowledge of God’s Word
  - It is dangerous to separate the Word of God from the praise of God
- Avoid vain repetitions (7-11 choruses)

37  **Sing with grace!**

- Not just with gusto or talent or skill
- Sing while relating that song to your experience with Christ.
  - It is a psalm? How does that Scripture passage apply to your life? What is God saying to you?
  - Is it a hymn? Forget those next to you and sing it to the King of Kings who died and rose again for you.
  - Is it a spiritual song? Sing for the Lord to encourage your neighbor.

38  **REMEMBER TO GLORIFY CHRIST**

THE GOAL

39  **Glorify God in speech (v. 17)**

- If you are speaking words – do it in the name of the Lord Jesus!
  - Make sure what you say glorifies Christ.
  - Make sure that how you say what you say glorifies Christ.
  - Make sure your words are not just idle. Make them count for eternity.
  - Make sure your attitude reflects your desire to glorify Christ.

40  **Glorify God in speech (2)**

- Share with others what God is doing for you.
- Share with others what God is teaching you.
  - From your meditation
  - From your singing of the Psalms
- Teach others the spiritual lessons you have learned the hard way.
  - Save them from self-destructive behavior
  - “Ye which are spiritual, restore such an one.”

41  **Glorify God in your actions**

- Whatever your “doings,” do it all to glorify the Lord.
  - This is a great test for knowing God’s will – when choosing between two things, ask, “Which will glorify God in the greatest way?”
- Do it in the “name” of the Lord Jesus.
  - Means to do it with His mind, His attitude.
  - “*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus....*”

42  **Glorify God with an attitude of gratitude**

- “...giving thanks to God and the Father by Him”
- If you don’t like the job, be grateful that you have a job.
- If you don’t like the food, be grateful you can eat.
- Be grateful that a loving Father never leaves you nor forsakes you even when your earthly loves do.

43  **Taking it home**

- Will you INTENTIONALLY put on the 8 character qualities in this passage?
- Will you INTENTIONALLY make psalm and hymn singing a greater priority in your life and family?
- Will you INTENTIONALLY evaluate music for excellence rather than entertainment value?
- Will you INTENTIONALLY glorify Christ in word and deed while giving Him thanks?