

## Colossians 3:1-17 The Hidden Life

### REVIEW

What were some of the things the gnostic teachers were promoting for spiritual wellness?

What is Paul's main response to this?

Any notes or questions from your reading?

### 3:1-17

1. A pastor met a man on a plane and while talking told the man that he was a secret agent, and that he couldn't explain much about his work. They went on for the duration of the flight with this conversation. Why would the pastor explain his work as a secret agent? What does it have to do with 3:1-4?

2. One difference: Christian's as secret agents are meant to be found out and discovered. Based on the reading that follows, what are the clues in a Christian's life to demonstrate that they are living a hidden life?

3. If we eat lots of sugary or greasy foods, we gain an appetite for more unhealthy food, and become more unhealthy. What does it mean to put to death your appetite for donuts? What does this teach us about dealing with our other desires?

4. List the first group of "earthly" focused behavior:

5. List the second group of sinful behavior:

6. Which of these sins do Christians tend to emphasize more and which do we tend to neglect addressing?

7. Paul says to put off the old and put on the new. What happens if a person tries to put off the old self but does not learn to also put on the new self?
8. What does it mean that the new self is being renewed in the image of its creator? What cross reference does this refer back to?
9. In 3:12, Paul reminds us that God’s first act of “salvation” (identity) leads to the life changes that define our “sanctification” (behavior). What are the three truths of our salvation identity that Paul uses as the basis for urging us to “put on” the good character traits?
10. List the characteristics we are to put on with the new man:
11. How does the old man like to deal with complaints that we have against each other? In contrast, how does Paul say we should deal with this according to the new man?
12. What trait is singled out last and “above all”? Why do you think this is last?
13. The gnostic teachers were trying to isolate and separate Christians into different groups/levels. What is Paul saying here in v14-16 in contrast? Should we see these verses as private or public activities? Why is that important to the Colossian church dealing with the dangers of gnosticism?
14. How does Paul say that we let the word dwell among us? List the rich activities of the word:

For Next Time: 3:18-4:6 Whatever You Do...

*Reflect: How would you describe the family you grew up in? What was it like? Was there any dysfunction? What does a dysfunctional church family look like? What does a maturing / growing church family look like?*