

## **PP The Heart of a Family**

### **Part 8, *A Heart for Family* Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17**

2/26-27/2022

Let's begin our final sermon in *The Heart of a Family* series by learning what the '**heart**' is since the word is found 3x's

As Easton is the confluence of the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers, the heart is the confluence of the mind, feelings and will join together

Mary, the mother of Jesus, *pondered in her heart* (Mind); *a cheerful heart is good medicine* (Feelings), *each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give* (Will)

The heart is our innermost being, the spring which gushes forth our words and actions

It is also where our desires, motivations, demands, dreams, expectations all spring from

It is the battlefield of every conflict, the factory that produces our wants and demands, the place where good things become for us ultimate things, which the bible calls idols

The heart is ground zero, the base, headquarters, the hub for how we live

It is both the aim of the gospel, and the target of the enemy, therefore we read, **PP** "***Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.***" Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

Now, if we are to have the heart of a family that God wants in each of us, then we need to understand How to get it, What it will look like, and How to help others get it

### **PP 1-How to get a new heart**

***"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."*** Colossians 3:1-4

I've shared several times that I grew up with sulfur water, so my whole life we went and fetched water to cook with and drink

When we visit my childhood home, I always take my mom's many empty gallon jugs and drive to a spot about 5 miles away where there is a pipe drilled into the side of a hill, from which gushes some of the best tasting water you will ever drink

That pipe is not source of the water, it is merely the channel through which the water flows

The pipe that connects us to the source of spiritual life, is faith, and that source is Christ!

Do you truly believe in Jesus, having trusted in Him alone for your salvation and life, resting in what He has done for you?

If so, by faith you have been united with Christ, He is in you, you are in Him, you are **with** Him and this is what the Apostle is telling the Colossian believers and us

***'If then you have been raised with Christ...your life is hidden with Christ...you will also appear with Him...' 3:1-4***

'**With**' works the same way, it is a union, a solidarity between Christ and the believer

The mayor might way at a security checkpoint, this person is with me, and they pass through

But this word is used differently, because you might be with 30 people on a bus, and feel alone

You may be with someone in marriage and feel miles apart

But the word '**with**' here is more than being in proximity with someone, it means connected all the way through...in union, bound up together

What affects one affects the other, weeping with the one who weeps, rejoicing with the one who rejoices

**‘With’** is what creamer does when poured in coffee, what sand does when mixed in concrete  
Once together, it is joined and cannot come apart

Yet there is even one more thing you want to know about **‘with’**, for Paul write it in a Greek tense that means something that has already happened in the believer’s life  
Christian, what this means is this...that very moment that you believed, you were given new life, a new heart, you are a recreated being

As surely as Jesus rose from the dead, “[God] *has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*” **Colossians 1:13-14**

You’ve heard the saying, *You can take the boy out of the country, but you can’t take the country out of the boy*

Christian, God took you out of the domain of darkness, put you into His kingdom, and now He is taking that darkness out of your heart as you walk with Him

This is Paul’s point in **3:10**, you ***“have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”***

You see, when you believed in Christ your Savior, submitted to Christ as Lord, your old self was crucified with Him, and you were raised with Christ a recreated being, with a new self, a new heart

The Old Testament foretold this would happen: **PP** ***“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”*** **Ezekiel 36:26-27**

You get a new heart by faith in Christ, uniting you to Him permanently, inseparably

## **PP 2-What the new heart looks like**

I have a book in my library that I may have actually thrown away by now, called Dress for Success, and its premise was that if you want to be successful in ministry, dress the part

We are indeed to dress for success, but not in suits and dresses, but in the character of Christ

Let me explain something that if you can truly learn this, your life will be transformed

The good news of the gospel is not simply that we are told how to be kind, humble, patient, etc

No, the good news of the gospel is that the life of Christ is powerfully at work within us to become kind, humble, patient, etc

Do you see the difference?

There aren’t 3, or 4, or 10 things the Bible says to try and you will have these character qualities  
Not at all, for we possess these character qualities as we abide with Christ

Look at **Colossians 3:4**, where Paul tells us not only that Christ gives life, but *Christ is our life!*

Two years ago, we had an 80 foot Cottonwood tree cut down, and I had the tree company leave most of the wood on the ground until I split it up this past November

The wood that was stacked on top of each other had begun to dry out, but the logs on the ground were so wet that when I split them, I was drenched with water

Moisture from the ground was drawn up into the wood

If you want to know why your heart feels so dry spiritually, so lifeless, it’s because you aren’t in

contact with your source of water, you aren't connected tightly to your life, Jesus!  
 The moment you re-establish that connection by walking and abiding and beholding Jesus, you find you are eager and willing to ***“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” 3:12-14***

All of the characteristics of a heart for the family spring from the life of Christ that lives in us  
 We are one body, we are a family, and this is what our new hearts can look like with each other

### **PP 3-How the new heart is for the family**

Christian, let's settle this in our hearts...the church is a family of brothers and sisters in Christ  
 All good parents have an ideal picture for their family, and Paul has one as well

#### **PP i. The Peace of Christ**

***“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.” 3:15***

When a sinner's saved by the grace, through faith, that sinner is justified, made right with God  
 Christian, ***“you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” Colossians 3:3***

Do you know that there is a Double Jeopardy law in God's justice?

Through faith, we are hidden in Christ and He paid the penalty for our sins, and God cannot prosecute twice for the same sins

**PP “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1**

We have peace, therefore let it ***‘rule in your hearts’*** and bring unity to the church

#### **PP ii. The Word of Christ**

***“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another” 3:16a***

I have a group of men that I disciple each week in what we call a Discipleship Group, and they are all in their 20's

What an inspiration to me to see the Scriptures pouring out of them for any situation or struggle that any of them get into

The Word of Christ has moved from something outside of them, what they heard in a sermon, or podcast, to something that dwells inside of them, and it pours out of them with ***‘teaching, admonishing’***

Friends, you cannot give what you don't possess

God's Word must dwell in you richly if it is to pour out of you helpfully to those in our church

And it pours out in teaching, admonishing, and through our worship as we sing ***‘psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.’ 3:16b***

It seems possible what Professor Murry Harris says these are: **PP** *‘songs from Scripture, songs about Christ, and [spontaneous] songs from the Spirit’*

Friends, sing with your hearts, mind, feelings and your will

#### **PP iii. The Name of Christ**

***“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” 3:17***

Let all of life-what you say and do- come under the name, the attributes and authority of Jesus  
If we cannot say something or do something giving thanks to God in it, then we should avoid it  
It does not belong in the life of one who is full of the life of Christ  
Bringing every word and deed into the name of Jesus is to glorify Him in all things

How does a sinner get a new heart...it is by grace through faith the crucified, resurrected Jesus  
That new heart springs forth the character of Jesus  
And finally, the new heart is one for the family of God, bringing peaceful unity, pouring out  
God's Word, and moving each other to glorify God in all things  
Do you see, the gospel produces in us a heart for the family?  
Pray