

# Being Thankful and Not Bitter

## Colossians 3:17-19

08/29/15  
by Bob DeWaay

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Gospel of Grace Fellowship

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### Doing All in Light of Christ

#### **Colossians 3:17a (HCSB)**

And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything **in the name of the Lord Jesus...**

- The centrality and supremacy of Christ is thematic in Colossians (Col. 2:6-3:17 are bookends)
- We must not compartmentalize life
- "word and deed" shows a universal scope
- The "name" signifies the **nature and character of Christ**

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### Be Thankful in All Things

#### **Colossians 3:17b (HCSB)**

...**giving thanks** to God the Father through Him.

- Christ is the mediator of our praises (Heb. 13:15)
- We are to thankfully live for Christ in all things
- Giving thanks is not just something done at worship services, but must be an attitude we live by
- Thankful people are humble people

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### Fitting Submission of Wives

#### **Colossians 3:18 (HCSB)**

Wives, be submissive to your husbands, **as is fitting** in the Lord.

- This means **functional submission with ontological equality** (1Corinthians 15:28)
- “Be submissive” is imperative in the Greek
- “Fitting” implies a proper Christian attitude
- The household code that begins here shows Christian principles but no compendium of case law

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### Husbands With Christian Love

#### **Colossians 3:19 (HCSB)**

Husbands, **love your wives** and **don't be bitter** toward them.

- “Love” is *agapao* and is imperative
- “Not bitter” is also in the imperative
- This Christian teaching stands out from typical pagan ideas of the time

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### Implications and Applications

- We must not compartmentalize our lives
- Christian virtues are to hold sway in our marriages
- Bitterness is a poison we must not allow in our lives

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### Thankfully Doing All to and for God

#### **1Corinthians 10:31 (NASB)**

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**

- All of our lives are to be lived for Christ
- We cannot rightly live part of our lives for self and the world and make faith something separate
- Living for Christ means bringing thankful praise through Him to God

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### Christian Virtues Must Hold Sway

#### **Colossians 3:12, 13 (NASB)**

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience**; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as **the Lord forgave you**, so also should you.

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### We Must Avoid Bitterness

#### **Hebrews 12:15, 16 (NASB)**

See to it that no one comes **short of the grace of God**; **that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble**, and by it many be defiled; that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.

- See Genesis 27:34, 41 for Esau's bitterness
- Esau refused to submit to God's purposes and covenant where there was blessing

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### Grace and Wisdom Come Through the Cross

#### **Exodus 15:23 - 25a (NASB)**

When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were **bitter**; therefore it was named Marah. So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" Then he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him **a tree**; and he threw it into the waters, and **the waters became sweet**.

- Genesis 22:3 (wood) 1Corinthians 1:18, 1Peter 2:24
- James 3:14
- Salvation brings us living water; John 7:38

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