

In The Name of Jesus; Colossians 3:16-17

I. Importance

- a. We make time for the things that are important to us
- b. If we like golf, we make time to go out on the course and play 9 or 18 holes
- c. If we like games, we make time to play
- d. If we like sports, we make time to watch them
- e. Some of us build our entire lives around things that are important to us
 - i. Football memorabilia, movie memorabilia, etc.
 - ii. We memorize player stats, movie lines, our favorite actors'/actress' roles
- f. We live out the things that are important to us

II. Dwell

- a. Colossians 3:16 (ESV); Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
- b. When we put on Christ, we invite Him to dwell in us – to be part of us
 - i. Romans 8:9–11 (ESV); ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.
 - ii. This is not some temporary visit – this is an abundant, a distinct living arrangement that we have with God
 - iii. He lives in us and we live for Him!
- c. Teaching and admonishing one another
 - i. Part of God dwelling in us is about helping our fellow Christians
 - 1. Teaching – proper instruction
 - 2. Admonish – counseling about avoiding or ceasing improper conduct; to warn
 - ii. We encourage, we lift up, we spur each other on
 - 1. Hebrews 10:24 (ESV); And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,
 - iii. 'Consider' – to look at in a reflective manner, to contemplate
 - iv. We are supposed to spend a lot of our time figuring out how to encourage and help one another – even if that means admonishing each other
 - v. Sometimes I think this goes against our very nature
 - vi. We don't want people helping us – especially warning us
 - vii. We don't do 'community' very well – we meet on Sunday and Wednesday and then most of the time we don't see each other until the next meeting
 - viii. The reason I am who I am is due to small military churches in remote or harsh overseas environments

1. You are apart from relatives (blood family) so you develop very close bonds and relationships with your church family
 2. In Iceland we were always with each other – retreats, lunches, day trips, etc.
 3. I have such close friends from Iceland (Germany and Japan as well) that I am still in contact with today
 4. We taught – and yes we admonished one another
 5. We helped each other grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ
- ix. We have a standard to adhere to, to teach with
 - x. 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV); ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
- d. We must do community better, teaching and admonishing one another by the authority of Jesus

III. In the Name of Jesus

- a. Colossians 3:17 (ESV); 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.
- b. 'In His Name' is not a formula that invokes Jesus and calls Him to do our bidding
 - i. That idea comes from the religions of the 1st century (maybe even earlier)
 - ii. They believed that if you called on your god in a certain manner, using a certain phrase and their name, that god was obligated to meet your need
 - iii. We have this idea today as well, "I claim it in the name of Jesus"
 - iv. Paul is combatting this very thinking in his letter to the Ephesian church
 - v. He tells them that Christ is preeminent
 - vi. Ephesians 1:21 (ESV); far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.
 - vii. Christians know to whom they are praying to (God), through (Jesus), and with the help of (the Spirit)
 - viii. Our hope is in the resurrection of Jesus
 - ix. Our faith is in Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One whom God sent, the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world
 - x. Saying "in the name of Jesus," or some kind of variant, does not obligate God to act on our behalf
- c. 'By the authority of'
 - i. Acts 2:38 (ESV); And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. We claim Jesus as our authority, our Lord, our King
 - iii. Everything we do is done in Jesus' name – with His authority (His will) – whether we say it or not

- iv. Acts 9:27–28 (ESV); ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.

IV. Whatever You Do

- a. We (Christians) are a people who recognize Jesus as THE Authority and everything we do resides within that authority
- b. We can do nothing else since He dwells in us richly
- c. We encourage each other to remain strong, steadfast in our faith – acting out our faith in good works and love
- d. Whatever we do, in word or deed, we do by Jesus authority, His power, His love, His will