

New Testament Letters Biblical Commands

Commands from Colossians

- 1. Colossians 2:11 The gift of eternal salvation demands that the believer conduct a lifestyle that is worthy and proper as a child of God.**

Col 2:6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, (NKJ)

Salvation is the beginning point of the Christian Life where the Lord accepts us in the state He finds us, poor, sinful, and wretched. He expects us (commands us) to start with that salvation foundation and build the new man, one fashioned after the example of the Lord Himself as we "walk in Him."

- 2. Colossians 2:8 The believer is commanded to beware of the spiritual, mental, and academic barrage that will be faced from the enemies of the faith and watch that they seek the Lord for truthful answers.**

Col 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. (NKJ)

Truth is foundational to the Lord Himself and His Word. The "love of knowledge" - knowledge apart from the Lord - can be a great deceiver in life. The believer is to be on guard and seek the Lord for His answers and an honest evaluation of the holes in human arguments.

- 3. Colossians 2:16 The believer is commanded not to succumb to human judgments in areas that have been superseded by the New Covenant of the New Testament, but live the life of faith under God's Word and the guidance of the Spirit.**

Col 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths, (NKJ)

The issues for the Christian Life involve the Word of God and the believers ongoing "walk in the Spirit." Some of the laws of the Old Testament have been abrogated by being fulfilled. Others have been modified. Only proper understanding of God's Word can give the correct guidance. The believer is not to be harassed by human judgments.

- 4. Colossians 2:18 The believer is commanded to be aware that temptations will be presented to get the mind off God's central plan to be conformed to the image of Christ and involved in false and side issues.**

Col 2:18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, (NKJ)

There are many areas of the Lord's creation where the enemy may attack to get the believer away from Christian growth and the Lord's callings to be fulfilled.

- 5. Colossians 3:1 Once the believer has been born again from above, the Lord commands to seek the things that come from above and get the eyes off of the old life and that which is below.**

Col 3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ

is, sitting at the right hand of God. (NKJ)

6. Colossians 3:2 The believer's eyes and affections of life are commanded to be moved from the things of this world to the things of heaven.

Col 3:2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (NKJ)

The Plan of God for the believer emphasizes heavenly goals and aspirations. The goal of the old life that are entangled with the world need to be transformed as the believer grows spiritually.

7. Colossians 3:5 The believer is commanded to realize that he is dead to sin and should be practicing the thinking that puts to death the old temptations and sins of life.

Col 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (NKJ)

In being identified with the Cross of Christ, the believer is positionally dead to sin and its temptation to be enslaved to serve sin. As this truth and attendant thinking is applied, the believer can put to death these temptations.

8. Colossians 3:8 The Believer is commanded to put off specific sins of anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, and filthy language.

Col 3:8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.(NKJ)

Certain sins that were practiced in the life of the unbeliever are particularly bad. As a new believer these sins need to be addressed early in the Christian Life and conquered. They seek the Lord, He supplies through His faithful saints.

9. Colossians 3:9 Lying is also commanded to be put off.

Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, (NKJ)

Lying is also one of the sins that need to be addressed early in the life of the new believer. It is specifically targeted.

10. Colossians 3:12 The believer is commanded to put on several positive characteristics of tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, and longsuffering.

Col 3:12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; (NKJ)

Early in the life of the believer, certain positive characteristics should be addressed first. These will be most beneficial to the growing believer.

11. Colossians 3:15 The heart of the believer is to be ruled by peace.

Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. (NKJ)

As we grow the peace that entered our life at salvation is also able to grow. The result is a growing peace between believers and being at peace with the various aspects of the Plan of God. Some aspects involve testing and growth under pressure. We grow in living peaceably with others.

12. Colossians 3:15 It is God's will for the Believer to be thankful in all things.

Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. (NKJ)

13. Colossians 3:16 It is God's Will that His Word in commands, principles and viewpoints fill our hearts and minds.

Col 3:16 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. (NKJ)

The overall principle being taught is that of being occupied with the Word of God. The Bible is the "mind of Christ" (1 Cor 2:16). Coming under the teaching of God's Word implants the very mind of Christ in us. The next step is to be our occupation with it and dwelling on it.

14. Colossians 3:18. God's Will is for wives to assume the position of helpmeet to the husband's headship.

Col 3:18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. (NKJ)

The Lord has designed men and women with a human equality. Men are not "better than" women nor are women "better than" men. The Lord was very clear when He summarized their creation in the beginning.

15. Colossians 3:19 God's Will for the Husband is to love his wife with a love that does not require reciprocation and without bitterness.

Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. (NKJ)

AGAPE type love is a love that is self-sustaining, not necessarily reciprocating and in need of a response. This is why it is the word used for God's Love. When commanded of husbands towards wives, it directs the husband to love with all the details found in those 16 aspects of 1 Corinthians 13 REGARDLESS OF THE RESPONSE and without any bitterness.

16. Colossians 3:19 God's Will for the believing husband is to not become bitter against a wife that may not be responding to his love.

Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. (NKJ)

The wife may be angry, husband may be in the "doghouse," or she is in an off mood. It does not matter. Husbands are still commanded to lovingly love. They are not to react, refuse, or look to somehow get even or emotionally punish the wife for a lack of response. Bitterness is not an option for the husband.

17. Colossians 3:20 It is God's Will that children honor the authority of parents and obey them.

Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. (NKJ)

God has given parents to teach the next generation the basics of life and the principle of being under authority. These things are part of a proper beneficial home life.

18. Colossians 3:21 It is God's Will that Fathers not treat children unfairly and provoke them to anger.

Col 3:21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. (NKJ)

The command is not to provoke the children to resentment or anger. Injustice in leadership and exercising of authority can bring great resentment against the authority figure and may reach to one's view of God.

19. Colossians 3:22 It is God's will that all rightly established authorities be obeyed.

Col 3:22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. (NKJ)

The principle of authority and the recognition of authority is a Biblical principle. The Lord has delegated some of His authority to others. As such, these delegated authorities carry aspects of God's Will for the individual believer. The scriptures speak of masters and servants. The applications would be to employers and employees, teachers and students, coaches and team members, and all other delegated authorities.

20. Colossians 3:23 It is God's will for those under authority to carry out their duties as unto the Lord over and above the pleasing of men.

Col 3:23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, (NKJ)

God's will for serving under authority is to be carrying out responsibilities as unto the Lord in the sense that He is the ultimate authority. He is the One to be pleased over and above men.

21. Colossians 4:1 It is God's will for those having delegated authority from the Lord to fulfill their role of authority as unto the Lord.

Col 4:1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. (NKJ)

God's will for authorities is that they perform their callings also being under the authority of the Lord Himself. Authority is ultimately granted by the Lord and delegated by Him. All rightly established and rightly functioning authorities owe their position and allegiance to the Lord Himself. This is God's Will. Authorities in rebellion to the Will of God are actually tyrants and undeserving of obedience.

22. Colossians 4:2 It is God's will for the believer to be in continual communication with the Lord through prayer and thanksgiving.

Col 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; (NKJ)

The Lord communicates to us primarily through His Word as well as when we formulate and offer prayers unto Him. He desires our continual communication. Since He is working all things for the good of conforming us to His Son, thanksgiving is to be a part of our prayers.

23. Colossians 4:5 God's Will for the conduct of daily life for the believer is to be in the wisdom of the Lord and His Word.

Col 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. (NKJ)

Wisdom comes out of the regular hearing and applying of God's Word. This is to become the norm of the believer's life.

24. Colossians 4:10 It is God's Will for the church to welcome and receive other believers into the fellowship of the church.

Col 4:10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), (NKJ)

This command is specific to the Colossian church welcoming and receiving John Mark. The application involves the Lord's encouragement to welcome and receive other believers into the fellowship of the church. Hospitality to other believers is commanded in scripture. The fellowship of the church is not to be or become a closed club. The fellowship is to be open and ready to receive new believers.

25. Colossians 4:15. It is God Will the believers be cordial to one another in greeting and welcoming as the occasion demands.

Col 4:15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house. (NKJ)

Believers still possess sinful natures. In spite of this, the disposition of believers is to be cordial and welcoming to others as we encounter them. Sin nature coldness and poor social manners are to be transformed so that the believer warmly welcomes others.

26. Colossians 4:16 It is God's Will that His Word be read and disseminated to all believers.

Col 4:16 Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea. (NKJ)

The Colossian letter was first for the Colossians, but also for the believers in the surrounding churches. God's inspired Word is for the edification of all believers.

27. Colossians 4:17a It is God's Will that we exhort other believers in their spiritual gifts.

Col 4:17a And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it." (NKJ)

The mature believers who are led by the Lord are to speak up to encourage and exhort growing believers along the lines of their spiritual gifts.

28. Colossians 4:17b It is God's Will that we continue support and encouragement of growing believers in the areas of finding and developing their spiritual gifts.

Col 4:17b And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it." (NKJ)

The encouragement and support of other believers in their gifted areas should be ongoing to see them develop and begin to utilize their spiritual gifts for the ministry of the Lord.

29. Colossians 4:18 It is God's Will for believers to remember other believers as led by the Lord and pray for their specific needs.

Col 4:18 This salutation by my own hand-- Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen. (NKJ)

The Lord will impress upon individual believers the ongoing needs of other believers. It is impossible to pray specifically for all needs of all believers. Those which the Lord impresses on us should be remembered and prayed for on a regular basis.

Summary of Commands in Colossians

1. Conduct a lifestyle worthy of a member of the family of God. #1,5,6
2. The believer is to constantly be aware of the enemies of grace, the faith and practice of faith. #2,3,4
3. The Believer is to target and work on putting off specific sins first. #7,8,9
4. The believer is to put on specific works of righteousness first. #10,11,12
5. The believer is to allow God's Word to infiltrate every area of thinking and life. #13
6. Husbands and Wives are to assume the positions designated by the Lord and the commands He has given. #14,15,16
7. Parents and Children are to assume the positions designated by the Lord and the commands He has given. #17,18
8. The believer is to obey rightly established authorities and authorities are to follow the example of the Lord. #19,20,21
9. The believer is to maintain constant prayer communication. #22
10. The believer is to live in the principles of the Lord redeeming the time. #23
11. The believer is to be hospitable to one another and others receiving them into the assembly. #24,25
12. The believer is to see to the dissemination of God's Word. #26
13. Believers are to encourage and exhort others in their spiritual gifts. #27,28
14. Believers are to remember and pray for the needs of one another. #29