

"Living out the Virtues of the Christian Life"

Part 7

Colossians 3:12-17

Introduction: Tonight, in our study we will finish our look at the virtues listed in Colossians 3. So far, we have considered 11 of these virtues. Tonight, in our study we are going to pick up where we stopped last week and we are going to continue our look at the "Rich Fellowship" which Paul lists in verse 16.

➤ **Rich Fellowship**

➤ **Part 2**

Notice Colossians 3:16a

Last week we looked a little deeper at what happens when the Word of Christ is permitted to dwell within us richly. There are three words in this verse that tells us what is produced.

- a. **Wisdom** - The ability to apply knowledge.
- b. **Teaching** - The ability to help guide those who are in our lives.
- c. **Admonishing** - This has the idea of warning others when they step away from the path of righteousness.

Now as we continue, we shall see one method of teaching and admonishing in the early church.

✓ **Music in the Early Church**

Notice Colossians 3:16 again.

This verse is so very important! This gives us a glimpse as to what the music was like in the early church. It was music that was filled with the Truth of God's Word. They would often sing the Psalms and when it was not the Psalms it was music that contained the doctrine of the Word of God. It was not music that made them feel good. It was far from the contemporary music of today. The music in the early church was music with a message and it was a message straight from the Word of God.

I want to share a statement which is spot on. I do not know the author.

"Tragically there is a serious famine of Scripture in many American churches not only from the pulpits but in the music displayed on the overhead screen. One of the offshoots of this famine of sound (healthy) doctrine is an increasing number of weak, shallow, often times even overtly unbiblical songs. And the sad truth is that the elders are not

addressing the failure to retain the standard of sound doctrine (2Ti 1:13) lest they offend the ears of seekers. Shall we forget that our Lord Jesus routinely "offended the ears" of seekers by confronting them with the Word of Truth, which the Spirit uses to convict of sin, righteousness, and the judgment to come? The great hymns of the faith (although they do not all exhibit Scripturally sound doctrine) were for the most part written by believers who knew and loved the pure milk of the Word (whereby and only whereby saints grow in grace! - 1Pe 2:2). It is the height of irony to separate the praise of the Living Word from the "pure milk" of His precious Word. Many churches need to re-think their approach to acceptable music and guard through the Holy Spirit Who indwells them the treasure of Truth which has been entrusted to them and for which they will one day give a somber account. I know of one Bible church unapologetically which even posts links overtly non-Christian music favorites on their website. Such things ought not to be true of the spotless Bride of Christ for this world is passing away and even its lusts. Perhaps we need to remember the golden rule that only the God breathed Word is living and active and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. So let us sing out psalms and hymns and sound doctrine, the beautiful melodies of which not only touch our senses but which even more radically impact our innermost being, teaching, reproof, convicting and correcting us that we might go forth on Monday through Saturday as men and women who are fully equipped and ready for every good deed!"

Let us notice the words of A.W. Tozer concerning church music.

"Religious entertainment has so corrupted the Church of Christ that millions don't know that it's a heresy.... They don't know that it's as much a heresy as the counting of beads or the splashing of holy water or something else. To expose this, of course, raises a storm of angry protest among the people....

One man wrote an article as an exposé of me. He said that I claimed that religious entertainment was wrong and he said, "Don't you know that every time you sing a hymn, it's entertainment?" Every time you sing a hymn? I don't know how that fellow ever finds his way home at night. He ought to have a seeing eye dog and a man with a white cane to take him home!

When you raise your eyes to God and sing, "Break Thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me," is that entertainment—or is it worship? Isn't there a difference between worship and entertainment? The church that can't worship must be entertained. And men who can't lead a church to worship must provide the entertainment. That is why we have the great evangelical heresy here today—the heresy of religious entertainment."

Let us notice what a True song of worship looks like.

Notice Exodus 15:1-21

This very song will be sung by the tribulation saints in heaven.

Revelation 15:2-3

² *And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.*

³ *And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.*

Our singing is part of our worship and it **MUST** be based upon the Truth of God's Word. I am convinced that one day we will find out that much of the contemporary music today has come from Satan and not from the Lord. I believe that Satan has moved many of the contemporary artists to write many of the songs today. They are shallow, empty, and biblically inaccurate. Many of the songs play on feelings and not True worship. Let us keep in mind what Paul said about the last days.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

² *Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

One of the ways the doctrines of devils will be spread is through music. The music gets into someone's head and it is then repeated over and over.

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Notice Colossians 3:16 again.

The word "grace" here can be translated "thankfulness." This is parallel with what Paul wrote in Ephesians.

Ephesians 5:18-20

¹⁸ *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

¹⁹ *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;*

²⁰ **Giving thanks always for all things** unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

We are to sing from the heart out of an attitude of thankfulness. We are so blessed and we have so much to be thankful for. There should always be gratitude flowing from our hearts.

12.) Glorify God.

Notice Colossians 3:17

This verse is a great verse to filter all we do or say.

➤ **Our words.**

Our words should be measured by this verse. If what we are going to say cannot be said to honor the name of Jesus Christ, then we should remain silent.

James 3:6-12

⁶ *And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.*

⁷ *For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:*

⁸ *But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

⁹ *Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.*

¹⁰ *Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*

¹¹ *Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?*

¹² *Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.*

Might our prayer be the prayer of the Psalmist.

Psalm 19:14

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Notice Colossians 3:17 again.

➤ **Our actions.**

Our verse is a great verse to filter our actions as well. If you ever wonder if you should do something or not then just ask yourself if it will honor the name of Jesus if you do it.

1 Corinthians 10:23-24, 31-33

²³ All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

²⁴ Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.

³¹ Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

³² Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

³³ Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

Conclusion:

We are saved and left here on earth until the Lord calls us home. While we are here, we are to live to glorify our Lord. When these virtues are seen in our lives then we can be sure that God is glorified. Therefore, let us be controlled by the Spirit to live these virtues out in our lives.