



WEIGHT of the WORLD #3

Defying Distinction by Dying to Sin

Colossians 3:5-15

9/23/2018

²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

-Galatians 3:27-28

- Identity in Christ supersedes any other distinction made by the world
- Those who truly come to Christ have clothed themselves in Him
 - Racial & Cultural identity is eclipsed by His Covering
 - Social Status & Caste is ignored in His Kingdom
 - Manhood & Womanhood is surrendered to His Lordship
- Overarching Identity in Christ is adequate common ground for unity

Our Society is in turmoil under the weight of societal tensions & past sins

- Spurred on by identity politics that encourages & exploits distinctions
 - Riots, Rebellion, Boycotts, Rants on Twitter
 - Yielding to the temptation to fight fire with fire
 - Nothing is off the table in the war to protect personal distinction
- Even believers are being sucked in, but we must fight the right war

Equality is never achieved by militarizing distinctions to fuel rebellion

⁶ For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

- The wrath of God comes because of sin & injustice of humanity
- The sin of injustice is not defeated by victims embracing sinful tactics
- This is the world believers once walked in, but no longer.

Dying to Sin is Necessary for Distinctions to be defied

-Worldly Demands must be put to death

⁵ Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry...

- Idolatrous Greed
- Passionate Lust
- Impure Entitlements
- Immoral Actions

-Worldly Defenses must be put aside

⁸ But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,

- Enraged Heart that Lashes Out in Wrath
- Entitled Mentality that Justifies any Insult, Lie, or Falsehood

Putting on Christ (New Self) renews us in a way that defies distinctions
¹⁰ and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— ¹¹ a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek & Jew, circumcised & uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave & freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

-Those Wearing Christ have put on a new attitude (v.12)

¹² So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy & beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness & patience;

-This Heart Attitude flows from the security our identity in Christ

-Realizing the gravity of being chosen of God, Holy & beloved

-Those shown undeserved favor are changed to do the same

-Receiving compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience

-Reflecting compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience

-Those Wearing Christ have put on new actions (v.13)

¹³ bearing with one another, & forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

-Actions always reveal the attitude of the Heart

-A heart forgiven by God should forgive others the same way

-Bearing with one another despite legitimate difficulty

-Forgiving one another despite legitimate complaint

-Those Wearing Christ have put on a new agenda (v.14-15)

¹⁴ Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

-To Know Christ and Be Known as His so others might Know Him

-Over All, Love: Ties the uniform together & identifies us as His

-Overarching Peace: ruling in our hearts & relationships

-Overwhelming Thankfulness