

Colossians 4 – Life in the Body of Christ

Because Christ is preeminent, we can live in unity, love and thankfulness in His body, the church.

Entrust Series:

2 Tim 2:2: *"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."*

Psalms 145:4: *"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."*

Preeminence of Christ

"He is the only one properly positioned, authoritative and qualified to accomplish what it says in 1:20 'to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.'"

1:16: *"For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him."*

Christian Maturity

Christian maturity is founded solely on God and His work, and requires us to fully have our identity in Him. It requires that we reject all distortions to the foundation of the Gospel.

1:28-29: *"Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me."*

Set Your Mind (on things above)

We are commanded to set our minds on things above, the higher reality, and to keep our minds from dwelling on things of the earth, the lower reality. The old self has died with Christ and is no longer the dominant reality.

3:10 *"...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."*

Rightly Ordered

The rightly ordered household uniquely reflects Christ and His church. "What are you willing to do to get the preeminence of Christ into your household?"

3:23-24 *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."*

Life in the Body of Christ

"Christ as preeminent" is not a mere theological concept for us to ponder, but a **practical and lived reality** within the church.

Paul demonstrates and teaches a *body of Christ mindset* in his prayers for the church. Watchful, thankful prayer is ***persistent and diligent, cheerful, willing, and eager, and containing much gratitude.***

Believers are called to to speech and interaction with the world that goes way beyond "being nice." Who do we represent? Jesus! Who do we want to glorify everywhere? Jesus – ***because He is preeminent.***

Final Greetings (examples of Life in the Body of Christ)

The body of Christ is a varied and beautiful picture full of beloved members, all working with love and gratitude towards the same goal – the glorification of Christ and the expansion of His Kingdom.

Follow the examples:

Much prayer, endless thankfulness, hospitality, hard work, wisdom and grace towards the world.