



The Ark Community

103: **PUT TO DEATH**

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Reading: Colossians 3:1-17 (NIV)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The call to '**Christ-likeness**' is a call to discipleship. Discipleship (*not conversion*), is the Great Commission, "**Go and make disciples of all nations**". The call to Discipleship is an active partnership with God, there is no room for passivity. The '**Putting to death**' that Apostle Paul writes of is repenting of our '**Old way of Life**'. What's really important to note is that REPENTING does NOT mean to APOLOGISE, it means to CHANGE. In truth, to repent means to make a 180° turn-around. It's more than an adjustment – it's a RADICAL TURN AROUND! **Don't focus on saying SORRY, focus on TURNING AROUND. Put that old way to DEATH... so that you may LIVE.**

Jesus promises us, "**He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness**".

Our world is a world ruled by '*compromise*' and '*the end justifies the means*'. This is very dangerous thinking; unfortunately our world is very GREY. Jesus can not be used as a credit card, adding Him to our wallets and pulling Him out whenever we have need of Him, then putting Him away when we get what we wanted. **Being a Disciple means accepting ALL of Christ's teachings and REPLACING ALL erroneous information we have learned throughout our lives**, this may include: Bad Cultural traditions (*Revenge, un-forgiveness*); Religious unbiblical Traditions ("*God giveth and God taketh away*"); ungodly upbringing. (*Test your Partner before marriage; the ability to hold your drink as a sign of manhood*); Schooling (*the Hypothesis of Evolution, Humanism etc*); the disbelief in "Absolute Truth" and the World view on Religion that all roads lead to God..! – Confusion reigns..!

Putting our 'old ways to death' is simply making the right choices. **We choose Christ's way – not ours.** However, we can only make the right choice if we have the right information! Thus Paul writes, "**Be transformed by the renewing of the mind**". As a Christian we are to accept that **God's Word is final**. We have to accept that Scripture is the HIGHEST authority in our lives and in this World. If we come to have a deep conviction and belief in the fact that God's Word is **THE** absolute truth, then we can accept it with good conscience as our new way of life. We may think this is '*obvious*' but do our actions reflect we have accepted this as a way of life?

(Scripture ref: Colossians 3:1-17; Matt 28:18-19; John 8:12; Romans 12:1-3)