

LIVING OUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

—CERTIFIED, FIELD-TESTED—

☑ **THE PERSON OF CHRIST**

Authenticity Affirmed: Subject has received and embraced his new identity and is living in obedience to the new life—a compassionate heart, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness and love.

☑ **THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Authenticity Affirmed: Rigorous testing has shown the subject to be in full dependence on Christ and his peace as arbiter and authority in all matters of life.

***CHARACTERIZED BY THANKFULNESS**



☑ **THE WORD OF CHRIST**

Authenticity Affirmed: Heavy concentrations of the word of Christ found resulting in high levels of love for and obedience and submission to the teaching, correcting and wisdom ministry of the Holy Spirit of God at all levels of the subject's life.

***CHARACTERIZED BY THANKFULNESS**

☑ **THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS**

Authenticity Affirmed: The comprehensive influence of the nature and character of the Lord in thought and practice has been found to be the overwhelming and dominant factor in every aspect of this person's life.

***CHARACTERIZED BY THANKFULNESS**

LIVING OUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST—PARTS 1 & 2

THE PERSON OF CHRIST & THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PART 1—“PUTTING ON” THE PERSON OF CHRIST

(COLOSSIANS 3:12-14)

The true test of a person’s spirituality is when he or she authentically and biblically lives the life of Christ in the local fellowship—in the community of faith—for the health and unity of the body of Jesus Christ.

BECAUSE WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST!

There is certainly a place for living a respectable life in regard to those outside of the body of Christ, but the rubber meets the road in practicing our faith among our brothers and sisters in Christ.

PART ONE: We are to “put on” Christ, 3:12-14, cf. Romans 13:11-14, Galatians 3:26-27.

A. ACCEPT AND HOLD TO THE BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION THAT CHRIST IS NOW OUR LIFE, 3:4.

- (Colossians 3:4 ESV) When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

B. ACCEPT AND HOLD TO THE BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION THAT SINCE CHRIST IS OUR LIFE, WE ARE TO “PUT ON” CHRIST.

1. Putting on Christ is putting on our spiritual armor. (See 13:12, 14 below.)
 - (Romans 13:11-14 ESV) Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and **put on** the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its

desires.

- (1 Thessalonians 5:8 ESV) But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having **put on** the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.
- 2. Putting on Christ is set in opposition to making provision for the flesh and gratifying its desires. (Compare Romans 13:14 and Galatians 5:16 below.)
- Comparison/contrast in Galatians ... (Galatians 5:16 ESV) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

How do we do this?

C. LEARN, ACCEPT, SUBMIT OURSELVES TO AND LIVE IN AGREEMENT WITH OUR NEW, BIBLICALLY DEFINED IDENTITY IN CHRIST BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- (Colossians 3:12-14 ESV) Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 **And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.**

We have the Spirit-empowered ability to succeed in living the life of Christ because God instructs us to do so, and God would not call us to do something beyond the grace he supplies. If we are not living the life of Christ, it will be because we are not trusting God and his word.

Two Alternatives Here: 1) You are a **saved** person living in rebellion—a disobedient son, or **2)** you are an **unsaved** person who is incapable of obeying—a son of disobedience.

- (Ephesians 2:2 ESV) In which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.

3:14 /The person who is not willing to obey God and put on these Christlike qualities and live in this manner among his brothers and sisters in Christ has no true interest in the unity and harmony in the fellowship.

It is hypocritical and damaging to the person, and to rest of the body of Christ, when the person professes to be concerned about unity and harmony while disregarding the Scriptural directives.

When we do not "put on the Lord Jesus" but serve our own interests, we disobey God, set aside our spiritual armor and fall prey to the schemes of the devil—becoming pawns of the devil to bring disunity to the body of Christ.

- (2 Timothy 2:26 ESV) And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.
- (Romans 13:14 ESV) But **put on** the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no** provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A VERY CLEAR CONTRAST!

PUT ON CHRIST — OR — WALK IN THE FLESH

PLEASE CHRIST — OR — PLEASE OURSELVES

We must trust God to supply our direction and to supply our needs along the path as we follow Christ in our new lives.

- (Philippians 4:19 ESV) And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

PART 2— LETTING THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE

(COLOSSIANS 3:15)

PART TWO: Christ is our life, so we let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, 3:15.

- (Colossians 3:15 ESV) And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.



Our peace with God through Christ is the foundation (and the promise) of peace for every area of our lives.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST—OUR FOUNDATION & PROMISE!

- (Romans 5:1 ESV) Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

True peace is found only in Christ as we are made righteous—just—before God. Everything begins here—with peace with God through Jesus Christ.

PEACE WITH GOD.

PEACE WITH OURSELF.

PEACE WITH OTHERS.

PEACE WITH CREATION.

Two categories of events/circumstances that can potentially wreck our peace: 1) Things that seem outside of our control, and 2) things that seem within our control.

However ... since Christ rules over all, then we can rely on his peace to rule over all and

guard our hearts and minds no matter how out of control life seems to be.

A. GOD'S WORD PROMISES THAT THE PEACE OF GOD WILL GUARD OUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN CHRIST JESUS.

- (Philippians 4:4–7 ESV) Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

B. GOD'S WORD PROMISES PEACE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

- (Philippians 4:8–9 ESV) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

C. OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD AND OUR PRIDE ROB US OF PEACE (SEE JAMES 4:1-8).

God's Blessings of Peace ...

- (John 14:27 ESV) **Peace** I leave with you; my **peace** I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
- (John 16:33 ESV) I have said these things to you, that in me you may have **peace**. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”
- (Psalm 4:8 ESV) In **peace** I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.
- (Psalm 29:11 ESV) May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with **peace**!
- (Psalm 34:14 ESV) Turn away from evil

and do good; seek **peace** and pursue it.

- (Isaiah 26:3 ESV) You keep him in perfect **peace** whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.
- (Isaiah 32:17 ESV) And the effect of righteousness will be **peace**, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.
- (Romans 8:6 ESV) For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and **peace**.
- (Romans 15:13 ESV) May the God of hope fill you with all joy and **peace** in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
- (Romans 15:33 ESV) May the God of **peace** be with you all. Amen.
- (2 Corinthians 13:11 ESV) Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in **peace**; and the God of love and **peace** will be with you.
- (Ephesians 2:14 ESV) For he himself is our **peace**, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.
- (2 Thessalonians 3:16 ESV) Now may the Lord of **peace** himself give you **peace** at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.
- (2 John 3 ESV) Grace, mercy, and **peace** will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.
- (1 Timothy 2:1–2 ESV) First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.