

YOU ARE  
COMPLETE  
in  
HIM.  
COLOSSIANS 2:10, NIV

A new creation focus through Colossians ...

## Love and Peace

The whole world craves love and peace. The problem is that the world wants love and peace on its terms, unaware of why there is a shortage of love and peace in the first place. Since sin entered the world through Adam — and the angel of darkness has been able to spread his fires of rebellion to engulf and inflame the masses of mankind — there has been a separation between man and God, a separation from the love and peace of Him who is love and who proclaims peace. Thus, in order for love and peace to be propagated, men have to, in the words of

Jesus to the future apostle Paul on the Damascus Road, “open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God” (Acts 26:18). The true children of God have made this turn in their immersions into Christ, and therefore can experience the love and peace of God on His terms.

- **Put on love** — In the masterful will and plan of God, men have — by their own choices — sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. “For God has shut up all in disobedience,” observed the apostle, “that He might show mercy to all” (Romans 11:32). This gave the All Wise the opportunity to show forth His love for all mankind, reaching through the darkness to rescue any that are willing to accept and obey the terms of His rescue. “God demonstrates His own love toward us,” asseverated the apostle, “in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Understanding the love of God, then, is tied to consciousness of His forgiveness. Saints, therefore, are to forgive one another. “Just as the Lord forgave you,” the apostle reminds them, “so also should you.” From that, he builds logically to the next point: “And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity” (Colossians 3:14). Real love is what drew the saint to obeying the gospel — an understanding that God’s love is what provided the sacrifice of Christ for his sins, and for opening the door of repentance for his salvation through immersion into Christ. The disciple of Jesus is thus united with the Father in the likeness of Jesus’ death, to come forth in the likeness of His resurrection. The love of God promoted this unity, and the faithful obedience of the new saint made it complete. This love, then, is to abound among the brethren, and thus draw them together into what the apostle called “the perfect bond of unity.”

- **Resounding peace** — Real love results in real unity, and real unity with God results in peace. Through the death of Christ, the barrier between a man and his God has been torn down, and there is now peace for this individual in his inner man. “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,” exhorts Paul, “to which indeed you were called in one body, and be thankful” (Colossians 3:15). The saint has a choice as to whether or not he lets this peace rule in his heart; he can continue to be stressed and agitated if he so chooses. The word of God plainly tells the follower of Jesus that he needs to kick off the top any of the other things reigning in his heart as “king of the hill,” and let the peace of Christ rule there. This peace allows the brethren to work together effectively, and produces the blessed unity — what the Holy Spirit here calls “in one body.” Not two, or three, or 600; ONE body!!

When the brethren in Christ put the proper value on the spiritual things accomplished by the All Powerful God through the Savior, then the goodness of God begins to flow through the body of Christ. The challenges of earthly existence fade when compared to “the things above, where Christ is.” The saints, then, recognizing this truth in increasing degree, can fulfill the command to “be thankful.”

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