

Forever Grateful

Romans 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Colossians 3:15-17 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

1. Gratitude is part of our _____.

Colossians 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

What does it mean to do something in the name of Jesus?

- It means our actions are a reflection of Christ's _____.

Colossians 3:1-2 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above... Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. Colossians 2:6 As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him."

This passage contains some of the qualities of a Christ-follower

- Vs. 15: "Let the peace of Christ rule your heart."
- Vs. 16 "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly."
- Vs. 17 "Whatever you do, give thanks."

2. Gratitude is a target of our _____.

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly."

1 Peter 5:8 Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

- Ann VosKamp: Satan's sin becomes the first sin of all humanity: the sin of ingratitude. Adam and Eve are, simply, painfully ungrateful for what God gave. Isn't that the catalyst of all my sin? Our fall was, has always been, and

always will be, that we aren't satisfied in God and what He gives. We hunger for something more, something other.

- So what do we do about this spiritual attack on us and on gratitude?

- Put on the _____ who is being constantly _____.
Colossians 3:10 Put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.

This week I will...

- 1 – Give thanks to God before I start my day.
- 2 – Look for opportunities to express gratitude to God throughout my day.
- 3 – Thank God for at least 10 things before I go to sleep.
- 4 – Communicate gratitude by reflecting the character and mission of Jesus in everything I do.