

## Things Above

### Colossians 3:1-17

Vs. 1 "Seek...above". It is active. It is intentional.

"Where Christ is...right hand of God" The place of God's will and plans.

Vs 5 "put to death your members...on earth" Don't be less than.

Why are we drawn to being less than? lying, anger, covetousness, wrath, etc.

We're looking out for ourselves. (James 4:1-3)

God looks out for us.

Why does God get to be wrathful and angry but we don't?

God is characterized by love. If your wrath and anger stem from love then you're ok. Unfortunately we are typically not that way. (Luke 6:32-36, Eph 4:26, Mark 3:5)

Incidentally the Bible must be read in context and not stretched to say more than it is saying. The dictionary gives nuanced meanings to a single word. Context determines which meaning is most applicable. Read to understand, not to criticize.

Have you ever fought with someone trying to get them to do something that is in their best interest?

However, be careful that your arrogance doesn't override your compassion. Maybe what you want for them isn't what they actually need.

Vs 12 "put on..." be more than

Be merciful, be kind, be humble, be willing to suffer for someone else's benefit

Vs 13 Bearing with one another. Matt 11:28-30

Makes no sense for Jesus to yoke Himself to us. He doesn't gain anything. That's grace.

Makes no sense to slow yourself down to help others when they have nothing to offer back.

Have you decided to follow Jesus even when you don't get anything out of it?

"If you can't believe, if you can't accept anything on faith, then you're doomed for a life dominated by doubt." Miracle on 34th St 1994.

Vs 14 "love...bond of perfection" love is the propulsion for your acts of service. 1 Cor 13:4-7

Vs 15 "let...peace...rule" What a contrast. In the world ruling is maintained by force and uneasy alliances.

Vs 17 "do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" represent Jesus in all that you do.