

Seeing the Praises of His People
Colossians 3:1-5 & 12-17

In Colossians 3, Paul addresses both the Christian's responsibility of _____ to God from the heart and _____ from our lips. From his perspective, our heartfelt Christian behavior should _____ and _____ our verbal praise.

The Christian's old life of disobedience to God has been put to death and, as if _____, a new life has been given birth. This new life should be lived in a way _____ with that new life. But these new life behaviors aren't _____. A believer must learn to _____ effective behaviors over ineffective and dangerous ones. Paul lists a number of those behaviors.

First in order and in priority are behaviors that have to do with our _____ to others—especially other believers. He singles out compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another, forgiving as the Lord has forgiven us, and letting our _____ for one another keep these things in place no matter what so that we remain _____.

After listing these relational things that make up our new life in Christ, Paul lists our _____, _____ worship as a crucial part of the Christian life. Public worship is all about the _____ _____ making its home in us in abundance, and for that to happen, our worship can't be _____ - _____.

Why are these relational behaviors first? The answer is in the comment about forgiveness—"_____ has forgiven you." God wants to see us _____ Him. Oscar Wilde was right: "_____ is the sincerest form of flattery that _____ can pay to greatness." All other forms of worship pale in comparison to imitating the way God has treated us in Christ.

God wants to hear the praises of His people, but mostly He wants to _____ the praises of His people. He believes and accepts our praise when He observes our _____ in our daily walk and in our worship.