

Col 3:5-4:6 How to Get The Most Out of This Year

The start of a new school year is always a strange event to me. New faces, new personalities, new relationships, and many new things to get used to. This year will probably be no different. Yet we all set and wonder how we will get along with all of these new encounters? While all of these are very real issues, I believe that Paul gives us some very good truths in dealing with new circumstances and how we can set the stage for better relationships. Look in Col 3 starting in verse 5.

1. ***We need to be right before we can expect others to be right.*** – [Vs. 5-9](#) How many times do we throw the first accusation? Or How often do we find fault with someone when we have the very same issue? We have got to start with our own hearts and make sure that we are clean and just before we go around shooting our mouth off about others. Jesus put it this way, “don’t look for the speck in your brother’s eye, while you have a beam in your own eye”.
2. ***Honesty is always the best policy.*** – [Vs. 9-11](#) Truth always wins. If you tell the truth, you never have to remember what you said, and to whom you said it. I believe that we all want to tell the truth, but it just is hard sometimes. That said, it doesn’t make it any less important or necessary to always speak the truth.
3. ***Don’t be so sensitive.*** – [Vs. 13](#) So often we get our feelings hurt for no reason other than it gives us the attention we desire. Paul says here that we should just forgive one another and the faster we do it, the better. Jesus told us to forgive BEFORE we bring our offerings to Him. We need to watch out for the trap of grudges and bitterness. Those two will kill you. Really. It will eat you from the inside out. You will be consumed by thoughts of the other person so much you cannot enjoy your own life. Bitterness will destroy any joy and peace you may have. Look at someone who is always bitter and you will see a person who has not learned to just “let it go”!
4. ***Love rules*** – [Vs. 14](#) If you do nothing else, love one another. If you love someone, it will be much harder to no get along. It is easy to fight with someone you do not like. We see here where love is the “glue” that holds us together. We love one another and that is what others see in us. Jesus said, “you will know them by their love”. Besides, the bible says that if you are nice to someone who is mean to you, it is like “heaping coals of fire on their head”. Sounds like sweet revenge to me.

5. **Demonstrate peace at all times** – Vs. 15-16 Charles Stanley often has said, “Fake it till you make it”. And that is so true. Sometimes you just have to DO what you should even when you do not FEEL like doing. Sometimes you just have to ACT like we are OK and God is in control even when your whole body, soul, and mind aren’t in it and they tell you the opposite. God promises us His peace at all times. That means the peace of God is always be present in our lives. We just need to demonstrate it.
6. **Everything we do should be done as a gift back to God.** – Vs. 17 God deserves our very best is all we do. This is short and sweet. Just do it! But do it for the glory of God. And do it the very best you can. Sometimes our failures can be caused by us not having the correct information, or because we don’t possess the right skills or ability. But I think that other times and often it is caused by us not doing our very best and therefore God cannot bless it. Many times God just needs to see us trying with all of our heart, and He will make up the difference.

So how do we really do this on a daily basis with all the jerks and bad people we know? How do we stay “peaceful” in all the turmoil we face today? Paul’s gives us a few great ideas.

1. **Pray** – vs. 4:1-4 Pray, pray, pray! Pray without ceasing. Just pray. Often we pray only when we are in trouble or need something. We need to pray more and better.
2. **Watch what you say** – vs. 5 Be sure that you are always telling the truth and doing it is wise. Not only should nothing but truth come out of our mouths, but we should make sure that we stay away from repeating things that qualify as gossip or innuendo. Repeating something we do not know as a fact will only serve to get us in trouble. We often become the conduit that someone else uses to spread rumors and gossip.
3. **Watch how you say it** – vs. 6 Always speak the truth in love. Even difficult words can be spoken in love. If love is to be supreme as 1 Cor. 13 says it is, then we must treat it as such. That means that we must always let it rule everything we say, do and think. The problem is sometimes we think things we shouldn’t say and then it “just comes out”. Make sure your thinking is just as guarded as your speaking.