

DO EVERYTHING IN THE NAME OF JESUS

Colossians 3:17

By Andy Manning

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Today we are going to look at one of the favorite, most popular verses in the Bible.
2. This verse, in one sentence, explains how to live as a Christian.
3. This verse is a valuable test. It helps us know whether something is right or wrong.
4. This verse is a comprehensive rule. It covers every arena of life.
5. This verse is a powerful encouragement. It brings meaning to everything we do, even the most unspiritual, mundane tasks.

II. TEXT

1. **Colossians 3:17** “And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
2. In a nutshell this verse explains how to live as a Christ: Do everything in the name of Jesus.

III. FIVE WAYS TO DO EVERYTHING IN HIS NAME

1. Do everything in dependence on Him.

- i. **Colossians 3:17 (AMP)** “Whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus [and in dependence on Him], giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
- ii. How to depend on Jesus?
 1. Through faith in His death for our sins (Jn 3:36).
 2. Through prayer in His name for God’s blessing (1 Thess 5:17).
 3. Through obedience to His word (Col 3:16).
 4. Through intimacy with Him (Jn 15:5).
 5. Through fellowship with His people (Heb 10:24-25).
- iii. As a parent, my goal for my children is their independence. I want them to be able to make it on their own. I want them to be able to pay their own bills, to meet their own needs, to take care of their own business, to wake themselves up, to keep themselves organized. I want them to make it without me.
- iv. But Christ has a different goal for us. He wants our dependence. He wants us to depend on Him for everything. Why? John 15:5 “Because you can do nothing without me.” We cannot live an abundant life, or inherit eternal life, or live a fruitful life without Christ. But when we depend on Christ, we can do what would otherwise be impossible. Philippians 4:13 “I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.”
- v. In dependence upon God, Moses parted the sea, David defeated the giant, Joshua made the sun stand still, David killed a giant, Hezekiah destroyed the Assyrians without a weapon, and the apostles spread the gospel to the ends of the Roman empire in less than forty years.

2. Do everything for Him.

- i. **Colossians 3:17 (ERV)** “Everything you say and everything you do should be done for Jesus your Lord. And in all you do, give thanks to God the Father through Jesus.”
- ii. Every act must be...
 - 1. For His praise. Our lives should attract others to Jesus. **1 Corinthians 10:31** “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.”
 - 2. For His pleasure. **2 Corinthians 5:9** “Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to him.”
- iii. Every person lives with some ultimate motive – fame, fortune, pleasure, admiration, power, patriotism, philanthropy. I remember the story of Roy Hobbs, the main character in the movie *The Natural*. He wanted to be the best baseball player there ever was. When asked why he said, “Because one day I can walk down the street and people will say, ‘There’s Roy Hobbs, the best there ever was.’” His ultimate motive was admiration and fame. The Christian’s ultimate motive is the name of Jesus – to do everything for His praise and pleasure.

3. Do everything in obedience to Him.

- i. **Colossians 3:17 (NCV)** “Everything you do or say should be done to obey Jesus your Lord. And in all you do, give thanks to God the Father through Jesus.”
- ii. Christ is not just our Savior, but our Lord. He demands our total obedience (Lk 9:23).
- iii. We must...
 - 1. Obey completely. **Jeremiah 20:23** “Follow every way I command you so that it may go well with you.”
 - 2. Obey constantly. **Psalms 119:44** “I will always obey your instruction, forever and ever.”
 - 3. Obey carefully. **Deuteronomy 8:1** “Carefully follow every command I am giving you today”
 - 4. Obey quickly. **Psalms 119:6** “I hurried, not hesitating to keep your commands.”
- iv. The most amazing story of obedience in the Bible is when God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. This command required sacrifice. It required faith, because it did not make sense, and seemed to contradict God’s character. It required great love to be put God before His son. It required courage knowing that he would have to face his wife afterwards. Yet he placed Isaac on the altar and raised the knife, and then God stopped Him and said, “Now I know that you fear God.” And God blessed Him (see Genesis 22).

4. Do everything like Him.

- i. **Colossians 3:17 (TPT)** “Let every activity of your lives and every word that comes from your lips be drenched with the beauty of our Lord Jesus, the

Anointed One. And bring your constant praise to God the Father because of what Christ has done for you!”

- ii. Imitate Christ
 - 1. In your words. Say what He would say, how He would say it.
 - 2. In your deeds. Do what He would do, how He would do it.
- iii. One of the most famous Christian books of all time is the classic *In His Steps*, by Charles Monroe Sheldon, published in 1896. The main character is Reverend Henry Maxwell, the pastor of the First Church of Raymond. One Friday afternoon as he was preparing his sermon a man out of work shows up at his door and asks for help. Pastor Maxwell listened to his complaints, and then sent him away without helping him. That Sunday during the sermon the same homeless man, Jack Manning, walked into the sanctuary, and walked up to the front of the church and stood in front of the pulpit. And he confronted the congregation about their lack of compassion. Then he collapsed, and a few days later he died. Deeply moved by this event, the next Sunday Reverend Maxwell presented his congregation with a challenge: Do not do anything without first asking, ‘What would Jesus do?’”
- iv. That is what it means to do everything in the name of Jesus. Imitate Him. Always be asking, What would Jesus do?
- v. Some people have a passion to be unique; to stand out; to be different from the norm. Other people desperately want to fit in; they want to look like everyone else. But our goal as Christians is not to be different, or to fit in, but to be like Christ.

5. Do everything with an attitude of gratitude through Him.

- i. **Colossians 3:17** “And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
 - 1. Who are we to thank? God the Father.
 - 2. Through whom are we to give thanks? Through Jesus. God only accepts the praise that is offered through Jesus.
- ii. We are to thank God, acknowledging that any good that we say or do is only because of God’s work through us.
- iii. We are to thank God, acknowledging that is a great blessing to do everything in the name of Jesus.
- iv. Do everything in the name of Jesus...
 - 1. Without complaining (Phil 2:14).
 - 2. Cheerfully, not out of compulsion (2 Cor 9:6-7).
 - 3. Not to earn eternal life (Eph 2:8).
 - 4. Not to put God in your debt. Job 41:11 “Who confronted me, that I should repay him? Everything under heaven belongs to me.” You will always be in God’s debt. And God deserves much more than you could ever repay.
 - 5. Because of God’s incomprehensible love poured out on you.
- v. When David became king, he decided to bring the ark of the covenant, which represented God’s presence, to Jerusalem. When the ark finally made it to

Jerusalem, David they had a huge worship service to give thanks to God. David wrote a song that instructs us how to give thanks to God. It is found in **1**

Chronicles 16:8-12:

8 Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;
proclaim his deeds among the peoples.
9 Sing to him; sing praise to him;
tell about all his wondrous works!
10 Boast in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
11 Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his face always.
12 Remember the wondrous works he has done,
his wonders, and the judgments he has pronounced

- vi. **Thomas Watson** “In this, Christians are defective, thought they are much in supplication, yet little in thanksgiving.”
- vii. **Thomas Watson** wrote the following reasons to give thanks to God:
 - 1. Has not God provided liberally for you, and given you those spiritual mercies, which he has denied to others who are better than you? You never eat—but mercy carves for you. You never go to bed—but mercy draws the curtain, and sets a guard of angels about you. Whatever you have, is out of the treasury of free grace!
 - 2. Has not God prevented many dangers—has he not kept watch and ward about you?
 - a. What temporal dangers has God screened off.
 - b. What spiritual dangers has God prevented?
 - 3. Has not God spared you a long time?
 - 4. Has not God often come in with assisting grace?
 - 5. Has not God vanquished Satan for you?
 - 6. Have you not had many signal deliverances?

IV. NOTICE THREE INSIGHTS ABOUT THIS COMMAND

1. It is a valuable test.

- i. The command to do everything in the name of Jesus is a valuable test for determining right from wrong.
- ii. When you are faced with a moral question, simply ask, “Can I do this in the name of Jesus? Can I depend on His strength to do this? Can I do this for His glory? Can I imitate Him in this? Can I give God thanks for this?”

2. It is a comprehensive rule.

- i. **Colossians 3:17** “Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him.”
 - 1. Paul said the same thing three times, in three different ways:
Everything you do. All that you do. Whatever you do.
 - 2. There is no sacred-secular split.
- ii. This rule covers...
 - 1. The measures you take – what you do.

2. The means you use – how you do it.
 3. The motives in your heart – why you do it.
 4. The mental attitude of your spirit – your mood.
 - iii. Every arena of your life, every moment of your life, must be done in the name of Jesus Christ.
 - iv. **Pulpit Commentary** “We are not at liberty to take any part of our life from under his rule. The doctrine that religion and business are disconnected is a “damnable heresy.”
- 3. It is a powerful encouragement.**
- i. This command is a great encouragement because it infuses meaning and significance and dignity into every chore, every task, every job. Whether you are sweeping the floor or singing, fixing a car or fasting, cleaning toilets or caring for the sick, everything has meaning; everything has purpose; everything has significance. It is all to be done in the name of Jesus.
 - ii. **Pulpit Commentary** “This is a powerful encouragement. It dignifies drudgery, sanctifies commerce, hallows recreation.... We may thank God for our subjection to the power of that name, which ennobles every service and lightens every trial.”

V. CONCLUSION

1. Sometimes we make the Christian life more complicated than it needs to be. But it is really simple to understand. Simple enough for a small child. What does it mean to be a Christian? It means to do everything in the name of Jesus Christ.