

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. Read Colossians 3:5-17. Think about the motivation for Christ-like living, the negative motivation of sin arousing God's wrath (verse 5). Even though as a believer you will not face the final judgment of God's wrath (*cf.* Romans 5:9; Colossians 3:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9), God does discipline us—read Hebrews 12:4-11.

Not all the bad things that happen to us are God's discipline. Many come from living in this fallen, sinful world. We cannot decipher the cause of all the bad things that come our way. But we can avoid painful consequences and discipline as we obey God, live a Christ-like life. Keep this very real, albeit negative, motivation in mind today.

Tuesday. Today we move to the positive motivation for Christ-like living. There is a handful of positive motivation in this section. Read verses 10, 12 (there are two here), 13 and 15 to find the five. Found them? Okay, here they are (just to check): you are a new creation in Christ (10), you have been chosen by God (12), you are holy and loved (12), you are forgiven (13) and, you are called to peace and unity (15).

Write these out on a card or page under the title "Positive Motivation To Live Like Christ Today." Refer to it throughout the day.

Wednesday. Now we come to some specific examples of living like Christ. The lists here are not exhaustive, but give us a good deal to think about and act on.

We begin with the negatives. There are three negatives to eliminate. (1) Check verse five for five sinful desires and actions we are to consider dead, or kill; (2) look at verse 8 for three relational sins we are to put off; and, (3) go through verses 8 and 9 for three speech sins we are to put off or lay aside.

What is your current status on these sins which clearly prevent Christ-like living? Are there some you need to face squarely and then take action? If so, do that now.

Thursday. Verses 12-16 list two handfuls or ten positive things to develop that are part of living like Christ: a heart of compassion (12), kindness (12), humility (12), gentleness (12), patience (12), bearing with one another (13), forgiving each other (13), loving each other (14), allowing Christ's peace to rule (15), and allowing God's Word to saturate your soul (16).

That's a long list! Review it. Ask God to point out one or two that He wants you to grow in now. Keep them in front of you, focus on them in your prayer time, and note the growth God gives you in the days and weeks to come.

Friday/Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at 3:18 – 4:1. Read through these verses as you prepare yourself for our time together.