

Easy As 1-2-3



Colossians 3:1-17 ¹

It's As Easy As 1-2-3

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Overall Understanding

Here is a summary of Paul's warnings in chapter 2.

Don't allow others to . . .		. . . By . . .
2:4	Delude you: <i>paralogizomai</i> , literally, "to reason alongside," thus, "to reckon wrong, to deceive by false reasoning, delude, to lead astray by false reasoning."-Wuest	persuasive argument: <i>pithanlogia</i> , from <i>peithō</i> , "to persuade," and <i>logos</i> , "word," thus, "persuasive words, speech adapted to persuade, discourse in which probable arguments are adduced"; in a bad sense, "persuasiveness of speech, specious discourse leading others into error."-Wuest
2:8	Take you captive: <i>sulagōgeō</i> , to lead away as booty, that is, (figuratively) seduce: - spoil.	Philosophy and empty deception ● According to the tradition of men, ● According to the elementary principles of the world ● Rather than according to Christ.
2:16	Act as your judge: <i>krinō</i> , to take you to task; sit in judgment (Wuest).	● Rules about what to eat ● Rules about religious celebrations and observances
2:18	Defraud you of your prize: <i>katabrabeuō</i> , to defraud (of salvation): - beguile of reward.	● self-denial ● worship of angels ● supposed visions
2:20-23	Don't submit yourself to decrees (ceremonial rules and ordinances): <i>the commandments of men, self-made religion, self-abasement, severe treatment of the body</i>	
It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1		

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Colossians 3:1-17 ²

¹If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Jesus is seated at the right hand of God, and we were raised with Him, and we are seated with Him.

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Since we are seated with Christ, don't seek the rules and regulations, seek Jesus and what He did FOR us. Don't let anyone steal His accomplishment with rules or "special revelation."

³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

We don't need to die repeatedly. We already died in Christ, and our LIFE is hidden with Him. It is finished. We don't crucify ourselves.

⁴When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

See 1 John 3:1-3. When He appears, we will be like Him.

⁵Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Therefore, because, you are seated with Him and alive, not dead, consider yourself dead to sin. Put these THINGS to death, not put yourself to death. You are freed from and dead to these things (Rom. 6:11-14).

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⁶Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

The term “sons of disobedience” refers to those who do not believe in Jesus. Only upon them will the wrath of God come. Believers are free from wrath. We are no longer sons of disobedience. We USED TO walk in sin, but now we are freed. Walk in that freedom that Jesus purchased for us.

⁸But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

We are able, as alive believers in Christ who are raised with Him, to put off sin, including anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, and filthy language. Don't lie. Why not? It is because we have put off the old man with his deeds.

¹⁰and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

We are new creations. We are able to put off and put on. We put on the new man we have been given. The new man will be the opposite of the negative descriptions above.

¹¹where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

In Christ, there are no classes. This was a stunning statement in this day.

¹²Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

We are the elect of God, chosen. We are holy. We are beloved. So, we put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering. We are patient with each other. We forgive each

other. This is because we have also been forgiven. His forgiveness comes first. Ours for others is a result.

¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Above all of these wonderful things that we put on, we put on love. Love binds all good things together.

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Let God's peace serve as an umpire (rule) in your heart. His peace or lack thereof helps to guide us as we live and make decisions. Let His peace guide us, not religion or supposed higher revelation.

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

The word of Christ most commonly refers to the gospel of grace that Paul preached. Let the good news of what Jesus did for us dwell (live) permanently. Let it dwell RICHLY.

We teach each other through music to each other and in praise to the Lord. We sing with the grace of God in our hearts.

Therefore, the words to music to the Lord is important. We don't want to be taught incorrectly through music.

¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Our entire lives, all that we do and say is done in the name of Jesus, thus giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Paul is communicating a life of rest in which we focus on Jesus and rejoice in what He has done in us and what He does through us.

When we know who we are in Him and focus on Jesus, not rules or special revelation, we will show forth spiritual fruit.