

Colossians 3:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Analysis

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Paul provides comprehensive life principle. "Whatsoever ye do" (pan ho ti ean poiēte, πᾶν ὃ τι ἔὰν ποιῆτε) encompasses every activity without exception—no sacred/secular division. "In word or deed" (en logō ē en ergō, ἐν λόγῳ ἢ ἐν ἔργῳ) covers speech and action, communication and conduct, covering all human activity.

"Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (panta en onomati Kyriou Iēsou, πάντα ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ) means acting as Christ's representative, for His glory, under His authority. "Name" indicates identity and authority; doing something in someone's name means representing them. "Giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (eucharistountes tō theō patri di' autou, εὐχαριστοῦντες τῷ Θεῷ πατρὶ δι' αὐτοῦ) makes thanksgiving constant accompaniment to all activity, recognizing God as source and Christ as mediator.

Historical Context

Ancient world sharply divided sacred (temple, ritual, religious activities) from secular (daily work, family life, recreation). Christianity abolished this division: all life is sacred when lived for Christ's glory. This transformed ordinary occupations into holy callings, giving dignity to mundane work and accountability for all activities. Medieval monasticism partially reverted to sacred/secular division; Reformation reclaimed Paul's vision of comprehensive Christian life.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What activities do you consider secular versus sacred, and does this division reflect biblical thinking?
2. How specifically do you do your work, relationships, and recreation 'in Jesus's name' for His glory?
3. What would change if you truly viewed all activities—eating, working, relaxing—as opportunities to represent Christ?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	πάντα	ὅ	τι	ἄν	ποιῆτε	ἐν	λόγῳ	ἢ	ἐν	ἔργῳ
And	do all	G3739	G5100	ye do	G4160	in	word	or	in	deed
G2532	G3956			G302		G1722	G3056	G2228	G1722	G2041

πάντα	ἐν	όνόματι	κυρίου	Ἰησοῦ	εὐχαριστοῦντες	τῷ
do all	in	the name	of the Lord	Jesus	giving thanks	G3588
G3956	G1722	G3686	G2962	G2424	G2168	

θεῷ	καὶ	πατρὶ	δι'	αὐτοῦ
to God	And	the Father	by	him
G2316	G2532	G3962	G1223	G846

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 10:31 (References God): Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Colossians 3:23 (References Lord): And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Proverbs 3:6 (Parallel theme): In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Ephesians 5:20 (References Jesus): Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 4:11 (References Jesus): If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (References Jesus): In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Hebrews 13:15 (References God): By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

1 Peter 2:5 (References Jesus): Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1 John 3:18 (Word): My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

1 Peter 2:9 (Parallel theme): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: