

Making Christianity the New Shelf 9-14-14 AM

INTRODUCTION READING: Colossians 3

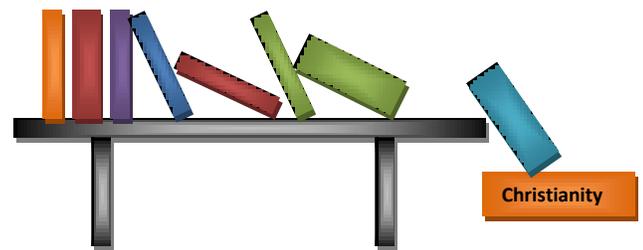
Many Christians have problems making Christianity work for them. It seems that they struggle constantly to keep it in their life, and are always picking up pieces of things in their lives that fall apart. Perhaps the problem is that they have failed to make Christianity an Intrinsic Priority (that is a priority in life that is so important it is no longer part of the equation, it is the equation).

For understanding purposes, let us compare our lives to a bookshelf, and the things that we prioritize are the books. We place work, marriage, family, entertainment and other things of importance in our lives on the shelf. At some point, we were introduced to Christ, and placed His Way (Christianity) on that shelf. However, this does not work, and we end up dropping things, usually Christianity. The mistake was that Christianity was never meant to be on the shelf; instead, it was meant to BE The Shelf.

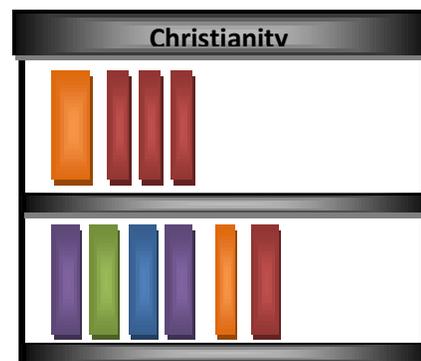
Colossians 3 & Bookshelves:

- vs. 5-10: Some things come off the shelf
- vs. 10-11: The shelf covers everything
- vs. 12-17: Church Family
- vs. 18-19: Marriage
- vs. 20-21: Family
- vs. 22-25: Work
- elsewhere: friends, recreation, all things

THIS:



SHOULD BE THIS:



Applications:

- You obeyed & put Christianity "on the shelf". It was a mistake that we commonly make. Once we try to make room for this on our shelf, it begins to fall apart.
- You need to make Christianity the shelf: This is the new "Self" (New "shelf") of Colossians 3:10. It will determine priorities in your life, and what books simply need to be removed from the shelf that is your life. It will tell you where to put everything, and how much attention needs to be paid to each part.
- This is how you make the shelf work for you. Once you put it into practice, Christianity is no longer fighting with yourself to overcome, but having victory in His name.