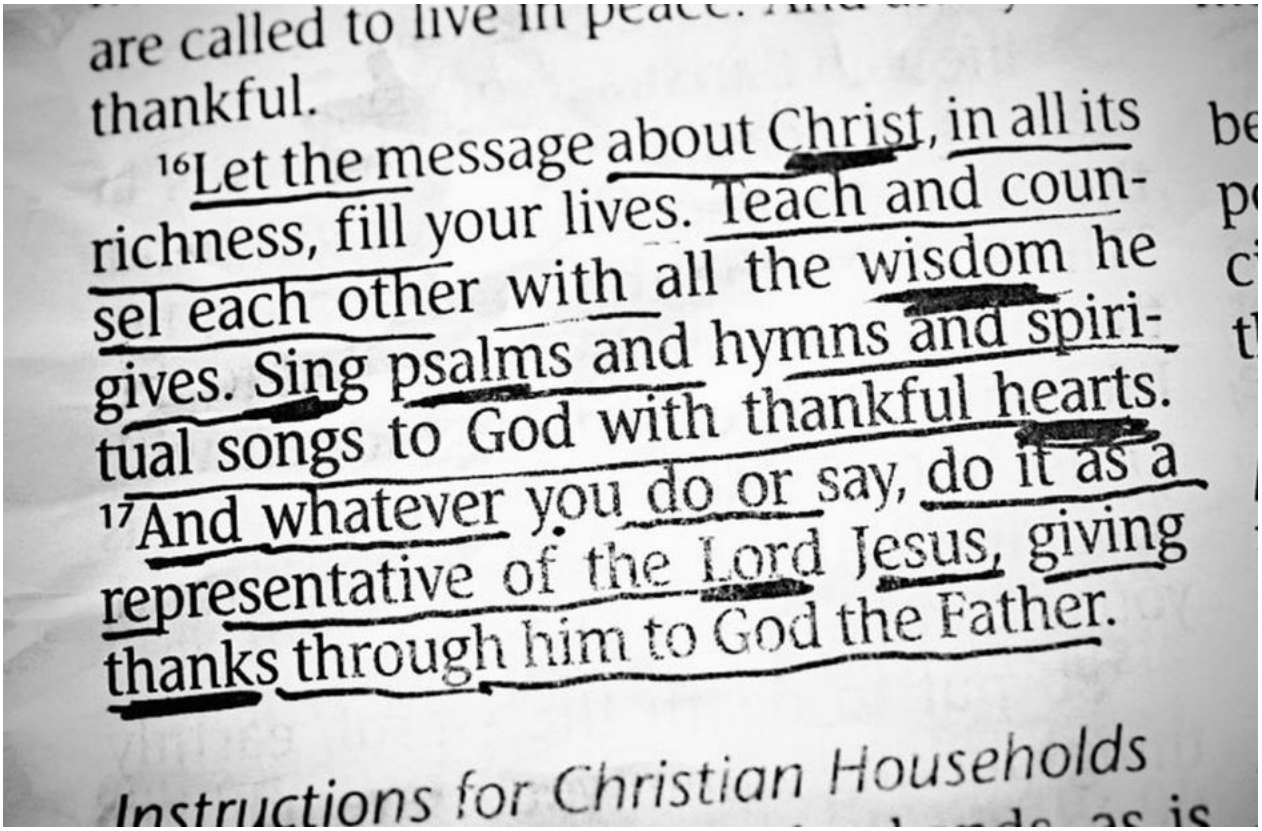
The Personal Life Of A Christian Musician

by Mark Cole

Have you read Colossians 3:16-17 lately? This great passage gives solid advice for musicians and Christians in general to follow.



1. Let Jesus' teachings and message fill your life!

Years ago, I was challenged to get to know Jesus at a deeper level. (Frankly… I'm still challenged to do that.) A great piece of advice that I was given was to read through the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) **three times in one month**. (That's about 9 chapters per day). To read the eyewitness accounts of these four men who walked, talked and worked with Jesus on a daily basis is a good start on the way to knowing Him.

Another great piece of advice that I was given was to read through my Bible on a yearly basis and memorize the great passages of the Bible. Studies have shown that the single most powerful catalyst of people's spiritual growth is personal Bible study and reflection. Here are some links to my Bible Reading Challenge and the top Bible verses to memorize.

Knowing Jesus and having a great relationship with Him is foundational to a powerful Christian life. Knowing that Christ lives in you (Col. 1:27 NLT) is one of the secrets to supernatural ministry. As you grow in Christ and grow in true wisdom you will become rich in areas that money can't touch. And with true wisdom comes relationships, finance and the other necessities to have a successful Christian life.

2. Teach.

Do you know how to teach? Teaching at its core is not difficult. Basically, you are just passing on what you've learned. What have you learned in your walk with the Lord? What have you learned as a musician and worshipper? At whatever level that you are, pass along your experience to the person still coming up.

3. Encourage, counsel and help each other with God's wisdom.

Solomon said: "Get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise the rest of your life." (Prov 19:20). There never comes a time in your life when you have arrived, when you can't learn anymore. Take lessons, watch videos, go to seminars and listen to the advice of other, more experienced musicians. There is so much to learn, we all need encouragement and help on our journey with God.

Then go beyond just learning. Be an encourager! Be a mature believer who can counsel and help other people!

4. Sing

There is something powerful about singing your praises! Did you know that music is one of the few activities that uses your whole brain? (Check out this video).

As a worshipping musician, learning to sing well is a skill we can use our whole lives. Here is link on How To Improve Your Singing.

Did you know that God loves to sing?

The LORD your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. ~ Zeph 3:17

5. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God.

One of the secrets of worship is taking great praise and worship songs and singing them directly to God. When you sing a song directly to God, something changes. True worship begins. Never allow yourself to just sing without focusing on the One whom we sing to!

Whether you are singing from the Psalms, singing an older song from a hymn book or a song that was just written to worship God, sing it to God. Make God your focus. Don't just perform music or sing songs…. worship God!

6. Sing to God with thankful hearts.

God loves a thankful heart. I have so much to be thankful for. God has forgiven all my sins, He has given me a purpose in life, He directs my path, He supplies my needs, He never leaves me or forsakes me, He has healed me and given me a healthy body. And He has given me a great wife and family. God has given me an abundant life! I am so thankful!

When I sing, I want that gratitude to overflow to the expressions on my face. Thankfulness brings a smile to my face and joy in my heart! I never want to look sullen, bored or indifferent when I am worshipping God!

7. Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus.

If you come to the realization that you are a representative of Jesus, it will change your life! It will change your priorities; it will change how you speak and how you spend your time. Lord, help me to be a great representative of Your love and grace! Representing Jesus is a privilege!

Question: How are you living your personal Christian life? Is the message of Jesus living richly in you? Are you teaching and encouraging others? Are you singing to God with thankfulness? Are you a good representative for Jesus?

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The article above and many additional insights may be found on Mark's blog at http://markcole.ca/

Check out Mark's new book - "Leading Worship ~ Notes from a Grand Adventure" available in Kindle or Soft Cover Editions. This is a great gift for the musician or worshipper in your life.