

Putting on the New Man
Colossians 3:9-17
April 22, 2012

Introduction

Colossians 3:9-17 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

I. Identity of the New Man (10-11)

- You have taken off the old self and have put on the new self
 - Why do we need to change our lifestyles?
 - Because God has changed our life
 - What does this old self (old man) look like?
 - He is crucified

Romans 6:6 For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.

- He is corrupt

Ephesians 4:22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.

- He is in Adam

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.

Note: Adam has given us a corrupted, sin nature. Unregenerate. Dead in spirit.

- To become the new man
 - We are saved through Christ
 - Born again—regenerated
 - New creation (**2 Corinthians 5:17**)
- Can a Christian have both the new man and the old man?
 - No, old man is dead—crucified
 - Old man has not been converted—he has been replaced by the new man (new creation)
- Why do I still sin?
 - It is our humanness (our flesh) that still sins
 - Our flesh has not been regenerated
- New self is being renewed in the knowledge in the image of its Creator
 - Baby analogy—growing, maturing—getting rid of fleshly things

1 Corinthians 15:45-49 So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the

spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second Man from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the Man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the Man from heaven.

- We are growing up to look like Christ
- All of us will grow like Christ
 - No Greek nor Jew
 - No circumcised or uncircumcised
 - No barbarian or Scythian
 - No slave or free
 - Christ is all—sovereign
 - Christ in all—dwelling in believers

Note: Paul's point is that all humans are made in likeness of God and as Christians, we are all made in the likeness of Christ. There is no business for us to be hateful, angry, taking advantage of those who are in Christ.

II. Character of the New Man (12-14)

- God's chosen people
 - Elect
 - Salvation is 100% God's work

Ephesians 1:4 For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.

John 6:40, 44 For My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁴No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Note: You are not a Christian by your own choice or your own decision. We are Christians because we are the elect of God chosen in Him before the foundation of the world. We respond to His gracious call. To live contrary to this is to live in violation of God's eternal plan.

- Holy
 - Called out ones, separate from the world
- Dearly loved
 - God loves you with an everlasting love
- Chosen, holy, dearly loved—Israel in OT

Note: If you are the chosen of God, then you should be clothed in His character.

- Clothe yourselves
 - Compassion
 - Emotional involvement with hurting and broken people

Matthew 9:36 When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- Kindness
 - Ready to do good regardless of how others will act (positively or negatively)

Luke 10:33, 36 *But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.³⁶ Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?*

- Humility
 - Being a servant

Mark 10:45 *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.*

- Gentleness
 - Soft touch

2 Timothy 2:25 *Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.*

- Patience
 - Knowing that with Christians, God will change them

Note: To bear means to hold back yourself from another. Not to get angry or pay back someone, but to understand that God is patient and is working on such person. This leads to forgiveness.

Colossians 3:13 *Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

Matthew 18:22 *Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.*

- Love
 - Binding all the characteristics in perfect unity

Note: Binding is another clothing metaphor that Paul uses here. Once you have all these clothes on (compassion, etc), then you are to bind them with love. Like a sash to hold the tunic in place (from flowing around).

Romans 13:10 *Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

III. Priorities of the New Man (15-17)

- Peace of Christ
 - Peace
 - Greek—means agreement or treaty

Note: When we come to Christ, we enter in an agreement with Christ. We are on the same side. When we make decisions that offends Christ, then that peace is unsettled.

- Hebrew—means attitude of security

Note: Inner rest—peace of Christ

- Rule your hearts
 - My decision making
 - Will my decision offend Christ with whom I at peace?
 - Will my decision cause me to feel bad in my soul?

- Be thankful
- Word of Christ
 - Dwell—permanent place
 - Richly—super abundant

Note: From John MacArthur, “If you are jammed full of God’s words in your life, that if they cut you up, you will bleed Bible verses.”

- We have to feed on God’s words
 - Read it
 - Study it
 - Live it
- Being filled with the words of Christ is being filled with the Holy Spirit
 - **Colossians 3:16-4:2** is parallel to **Ephesians 5:18-6:9**

Ephesians 5:18 *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*

- Being filled—under control of the Holy Spirit
- Result of being filled with Christ’s words
 - Teaching—do these things
 - Admonishing—don’t do these things
 - Grateful heart full of praises and songs
- Name of Christ
 - Whatever you do—do in the name of Jesus Christ
 - Do whatever that is consistent with who Jesus is

Romans 13:14 *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*

- We’re putting on Christ (the new man)!