

“The New You”

Colossians 3 v1-17

Scripture Ref: 1 Pet 2:9-10; Eph 4:15-16; Phil 4:6-7

- 1. How we live is a reflection of who we are**
 - a. Legalism says I live by a set of rules: “I am guided by my rules”**
 - b. Philosophy says I live by a set of principles: “I am guided by my philosophy”**
 - c. Christianity says “I am a NEW creature”**
- 2. The first two – legalism and philosophy, deal with the *external* – it changes our behavior by applying external force**
 - a. Christianity deals with the *internal* – we don’t change our behavior, we become NEW, therefore our behavior changes**

3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

- 3. My oldest daughter Carmen has been accepted to UNCW, and it won’t be long now until she’ll move onto campus to start her new life as a college student.**
 - a. Consequently, right now she is just floating through life.**
 - b. She knows that her high-school/home school days are almost over, and she’ll be in college soon!**
- 4. You know, I believe that the people in this world who are truly content are the ones who have grasped the fact that the world is not where it’s at**
 - a. They know that they’re on their way to heaven, and it doesn’t really matter what kind of house they live in or car they drive, soon they’ll be moving into a mansion!**
- 5. On the other hand, those who are still trying to find happiness in this world are perpetually frustrated.**
 - a. The possessions that they obtain are just never enough – there is always something more.**
 - b. The relationships they form are never as satisfying as they thought they’d be.**
 - c. Their dreams never fulfill the way they had dreamed they would.**
- 6. That is why God tells us – *set your mind on things above* – if you know where you are going, then you are free to live here!**
 - a. Live for heaven – and you’ll enjoy life!**
 - b. And when He appears – you’ll be ready!**

7. **As well - When we appear with Christ, we will be seen as we ARE...**
 - a. **It's said we are three people...**
 - i. **Who the world sees me as...**
 - ii. **Who I see myself as...**
 - iii. **Who God sees me as!**
8. **THAT is what I want you to get from today's text – you are NOT what others say you are, you are not even what YOU think you are –**
 - a. **You are the person God see's you as! So...**

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because 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.

9. **“put to death” means literally “to make dead” – to KILL!**
 - a. **Paul is not asking us to do something we “cant do”,**
 - b. **...but to walk in something that God has already done**
10. **The unregenerate person cannot put to death the flesh... they can control it with some measure of success, they can discipline it, but they cannot KILL it**
 - a. **The believer on the other hand, because we have died with Christ, our flesh has been put to death (PTD – good name for a band!)**
 - b. **Remember our illustration of a dead man – lying there on the slab, he cannot feel anything – he's dead!**
11. **We once walked that way – before we were saved, but we don't have to walk that way anymore...**

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another,

12. **I should not have to walk through this list – you guys are smart enough to know that these are sinful practices...**
 - a. **Basic Christianity - three areas...**
 - i. **Sexual morality,**
 - ii. **Having the right attitude towards material things,**
 - iii. **Getting along in love with one another.**
 - b. **Basic Christianity – Basically live like the new man that you are!**

since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

13. Notice that Paul states “put off” and “put on” in the past tense – this is something that has already happened –
- a. it happened the moment that you became a Christian!
 - b. The question is not “did it happen”, but “will I walk in this new life that God has given me?”

Character of the New Man

12 Therefore, **as the** elect of God, holy and beloved,

14. This is who we are – our identity – the elect of God – this means several things...

15.#1 - It means that I am NOT what others say I am, nor what I say I am:

- a. I am what GOD SAYS I AM! His ELECT – holy and beloved!

16.#2 - That means that we were chosen by God

- a. Not chosen arbitrarily – like picking teams
- b. But chosen personally – individually –
- c. Think of this – out of all the world, He chose YOU!

17. It also speaks to our new NATURE...

- a. Holy because we have the righteousness of Christ
- b. Beloved because God loves us

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

(since this is who you are) put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

18. When this scripture tells me to “put on”, it gives me the sense of “putting on something I already own”

- a. Because I might think “wow, that’s hard, I just don’t feel that way all the time”
- b. No you might not – but God has given to you a new set of supernatural gifts, that you can “put on” - to be used towards one another...
- c. God has given us the ability, through Him, to own and possess these attributes – and to “wear them” as an outer garment...

Put On

19. **“Tender mercies”**: tender is sensitive to the touch – coupled with mercies paints a picture of
- “seeing a situation that a brother or sister is in, having a sensitivity to that situation, and having mercy in my heart”
 - The opposite of “I knew they had it coming” or “*they brought this on themselves*”
 - NOTE: Maybe they did have it coming, maybe they did bring that situation on themselves...
 - But our heart should be “*Lord, please grow them and teach them, so they never have to go through this again!*”
20. **Kindness**: Simply being nice and concerned about others
- It is used of wine which has grown mellow with age and lost its harshness.
 - The ancient writer’s defined *chrestotes* as the virtue of the man whose neighbor’s good is as dear to him as his own.
21. **Humility**: our perspective of ourselves as compared with others
- Some of us are a “legend in our own minds” – some people just know they are “all that” and they let everyone know it
 - We could easily look at a person like that and say “not a humble bone in their body”
 - BUT – the fact is most of us struggle in some way with humility in a place that is not so evident to everyone – in our mind....
 - It is easy to have a elevated sense of pride in some area of our lives – usually the area that we feel we have it together
22. Maybe one person is financially successful – it is so easy for our flesh to creep in and we think “God is blessing me – because...” and that person comes up with the list in their mind of why they are financially successful.
- Another person might not have money – but they have a really awesome prayer life – or they really know the bible – or they are at church every time the doors are open...
 - Fact is – in our own minds we can build ourselves up quite nicely and feel that whatever path we have chosen for our life is the ‘more spiritual path’
 - AND – even though we may never tell a soul (that would not look good!) – when it is in our heart – it affects HOW WE TREAT OTHERS.
 - FACT: *humility and meekness keeps us in a place in our relationships where we never compare ourselves to one another – but we see each other through the eyes of God***

23. **Meekness:** goes along with humility – but also “a willingness to waive ones rights for another” – active humility
24. **Longsuffering:** or “patience” IOW – enduring another persons conduct without getting tense of “giving them a piece of your mind”
- a. It is a negative term – meaning to “restraining yourself” – when someone is getting on your nerves!
25. It also means *we don't give up on people*. I don't become judgmental or impatient with the sins and weaknesses of others.
- a. Does not mean I support someone in their sin, or enable them
 - b. But it means that I continually pray for them – always seeking that God would deliver and restore and renew
- 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do
26. **Bearing:** This is similar to longsuffering, but on the positive side – literally to “uphold and support”
- a. Giving encouragement and affirmation
27. ‘if anyone has a complaint against another’ – we'll I'm sure that never happens!
- a. But just in case it ever did – we *must* forgive – not try, not ‘give it your best shot’
 - b. And the way to make it so is to have the realization that “Christ forgave me” – makes it kinda personal huh!
 - c. And if Christ – who is God and therefore perfect in every way – would extend grace and forgive me...
 - d. What kind of ungrateful loser am I if I hold a grudge against another?
28. Forgiveness FREE'S us – settles our heart – we give the situation to God, and we can walk away free from anger and bitterness.

The New You...

Love

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

29. Again “put on” – like a coat – which binds us together

Eph 4:15-16

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which

every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Peace of God

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

30. This word “rule” here could be described as *acting like an official – umpire or referee*

- a. **The person in a game that ensures that everything I going according to the rules – in the proper manner – nothing out of line**

Phil 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- b. **IOW God’s peace working in your life keeping you in a place of love and harmony with God, your circumstance, and your fellow man**

Word of Christ

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.

31. Staying in the word of God – “dwell” means that it resides in you!

- a. **... “teaching and admonishing one another” – a communal aspect.**
- b. **teaching – both feeding and being fed**
- c. **admonishing – encouraging one another to live by it**
- d. **psalms and hymns and spiritual songs – worship**
- e. **communal aspect to worship – as we worship, we are ministering to one another – encouraging one another**

Word or Deed

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.

32. IOW – the whole of life is to be related and lived out under the Lordship of Jesus Christ

- a. **All we do – all we say – all we ARE to others around us...**

33. Bottom line – Love God, Worship Him, Teach His word, Love His people!

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