

Colossians – The Old Man Versus the New Col. 3:5-17

Thesis: To help us understand the importance of putting on the new man.

Introduction:

- A. Paul opens up this passage with “therefore.”
 - 1. The things that Paul is about to say are in direct relation to what he has previously said.
 - 2. Because we have been “raised with Christ” (3:1), we should “put to death [our] members which are on the earth” (3:5).

I. Notice the old man (3:5-9).

A. Notice the description of the old man (3:5, 8-9).

- 1. Notice the list of sins (11 are named).
 - a. **Fornication** – one who has a sexual relationship with someone other than his/her spouse.
 - b. **Uncleanness** – anything that is of impure spirit.
 - c. **Passion** – illicit lusts that involves sin.
 - d. **Evil desire** – someone who wants to do evil continually.
 - e. **Covetousness, which is idolatry** – one who desires what other people possess.
 - f. **Anger** – passion, or feelings, that are against someone, whether justified or not.
 - g. **Wrath** – “deep, determined, lasting anger” (Lipscomb, Gospel Advocate Commentary, pg. 293).
 - h. **Malice** – intent to harm someone because of anger; whether physical or otherwise.
 - i. **Blasphemy** – to speak evil against something.
 - j. **Filthy language out of your mouth** – obscene talk.
 - k. **Lying to one another** – one who will not tell the truth.
- 2. How would you like to live like, or with, someone like this?
 - a. This kind of person could not be trusted.
 - b. Certainly, we would not want to be around someone who lived like this.

B. Notice the destination of the old man (3:6).

- 1. Paul says that “the wrath of God is coming upon” them.
 - a. Any time the wrath of God is mentioned, there is great destruction that occurs.
 - b. Those who have not put to death the old man will spend an eternity in hell.
- 2. The wrath of God is coming upon those who disobey Him; that is, those who have not removed sin from their life.

C. Because of this eternal destination, Paul encourages us to “put off the old man with his deeds.”

1. Remember **Rom. 6:1-14**.
 - a. Paul talks about being dead to sin and alive to Christ.
 - b. We must rid ourselves of sin.
2. We must do whatever we can to remove this sin from us.
 - a. Jesus talked of the importance of removing this sin from our lives.
 - 1) **Mt. 5:29-30** - If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. {30} And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.
 - 2) **Mk. 9:42-48** – Jesus says a very similar thing; showing the importance of putting our sin to death.
 - 3) While Jesus was not talking about self-mutilation; He was talking about doing whatever is necessary to enter heaven.
 - b. **Heb. 12:1-2** - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, {2} looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - c. We must “put off the old man with his deeds” (**3:9**).

II. Notice the new man (**3:12-17**).

A. Notice the description of the new man.

1. Notice the list of good qualities (8 are named).
 - a. **Tender mercies** – one who has compassion on others.
 - b. **Kindness** – one who is kind to others.
 - c. **Humility** – one who is not proud or arrogant.
 - d. **Meekness** – one who is gentle in spirit.
 - e. **Longsuffering** – one who is patient with others.
 - f. **Bearing with one another** – one who deals well with others.
 - g. **Forgiving one another** – one who will forgive someone, just as Christ forgave us for our sins.
 - h. **Love, which is the bond of perfection** – this is the most important thing that we could add to our lives.
2. Incidentally, these are the same qualities that Jesus Himself displayed in His life.
3. There is also a rule of life that the new man will follow.
 - a. They will “let the peace of God rule in [their] hearts” (**3:15**).
 - 1) It is only the peace that is from God that can give us true comfort and satisfaction.

- 2) **Phil. 4:6-7** - 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. They will “let the word of Christ dwell in” them (**3:16**).
 - 1) The word of God will dwell within us.
 - 2) We will live according to this word.
 - 3) **Heb. 8:10** - For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
- c. They will do everything they do by the authority of God (**3:17**).
 - 1) Our entire live will be used to please God.
 - 2) We will live by His authority.
4. How would you like to live like, or with, someone like this?
 - a. Someone with these characteristics would be very trustworthy.
 - b. They would also be the kind of person that could help us get to heaven.

- B. Those that have put on the new man will spend an eternity with the Father.**
1. Heaven will be our home for eternity.
 2. In order to have this home, we must “put on the new man” (**3:10**).

III. The good news is that we can go from the old man to the new man (3:6-7, 9-11**).**

- A. God would not tell us to do something that we are not capable of doing.
 1. We can go from the old man to the new (**3:6-7, 9-11**).
 2. **I Cor. 6:9-11** - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, {10} nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. {11} And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.
- B. It is only in Christ that we can be renewed (**3:10-11**).

Conclusion:

You are either the new man or the old man.
 Which man would you want to be around?
 Which man would you want to be?