

## Introduction

For many years the Lord had me doing evangelistic work. Even though my primary gifting is teaching, the Lord was using me in evangelism. Because I am a teacher, I wrote gospel tracks that included teaching. I gave golf instruction along with spiritual instruction. When someone read a golf tip, they also read a part of the gospel. When they had read the entire golf booklet, they had also read the plan of salvation. There was good fruit from the evangelistic work that I did.

When I went into prison ministry, which was a wonderful combination of evangelism and discipleship, there was far more receptivity and fruit than I had ever seen. The fields were white for harvest in the prison. What was the difference? I believe one of the primary differences were that many of the inmates had reached a crisis in their lives. Many of them had hit bottom. These men were tired of their way of life. They were tired of being in and out of jail. They were tired of being stripped of their dignity and freedom. They wanted to get out of the rut they were in. They wanted a new life. They wanted what we are going to talk about this morning. Our message today is entitled live a new life.

Before we get into our message for today, let's do a very quick review. The Colossians have been under spiritual attack. The gospel has been under attack. Jesus' ability to reconcile them has been under attack. The deity of Christ has been under attack. The work of Christ has been under attack. Paul has written them to defend the gospel and to help them stay free. He told them to see to it that no one takes them captive, or to take them as booty in this spiritual battle.

Therefore, Paul has defended Christ's position. He says the fullness of deity dwells in Christ. He tells them that they are complete in Christ. Jesus has reconciled them and there is no further work to be done by them to secure their salvation. God has circumcised them with a circumcision made without hands. He has circumcised their hearts. He has forgiven them of all their sins. He has cancelled the certificate of debt. They are complete in Christ.

(Col 2:9-10) "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, {10} and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;"

The fact that we have our salvation does not make us mature. Paul told the Colossians that he proclaims Christ, and admonishes and teaches every man with wisdom so that he can present every man complete in Christ. He tells them that this is the reason that he strives and labors with all his might. He wants to bring people to Christ, and then help them become mature in their faith.

(Col 1:28-29) "We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. {29} For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me."

Paul encourages the Colossians by telling them that he is with them in spirit, and that he is contending for them. Paul is praying for them and doing spiritual battle on their behalf. But, Paul cannot fight their battle by himself. He tells them to be on guard and to see to it that no one takes them captive. They are to be careful about submitting to anyone who judges them. They are to be careful about submitting to the decrees and traditions of men. These man-made laws and teachings have the appearance of wisdom, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.

(Col 2:23) “These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.”

God wants His people to be free. He has set us free from the bondage of sin. He has set us free from the bondage of the law. He wants us to do our part to stay free, and not to be taken away as booty or the spoils of war. That brings us up to chapter three.

There is a turning point in Colossians in chapter three. In the first two chapters Paul has addressed who Christ is, and the work He has done. He is contending for their faith. But, in chapter three, Paul begins to speak about our walk with Christ. He begins to speak about how all of this applies to our everyday life. The gospel of Christ is not about philosophy or head knowledge; it is to transform every area of our lives. In chapter three, Paul tells us to leave the old life behind and to set our minds on things above. We are to live a new life in Christ.

Paul will become more specific. In the second half of chapter three, he will tell us how the gospel is to impact our relationships at work. Then, he will tell us how the gospel is to impact our relationships at home with our children and our spouses. In chapter four, Paul will tell us how the gospel is to affect our lives with those who do not know Christ. We are to make the most of every opportunity and to be the salt of the earth.

Our passage today is a very straightforward passage. If we have become a Christian, we are to live a new life in Christ. How do we do it? Paul tells us that we must put off the old self and put on the new self. Let’s read our passage.

### **Live A New Life In Christ**

1. Put off the old self.
2. Put on the new self.

(Col 3:1-17) "If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. {2} Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. {3} For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. {4} When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. {5} Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. {6} For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come, {7} and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. {8} But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. {9} Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, {10} and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him {11} --a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. {12} And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; {13} bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. {14} And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. {15} And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. {16} Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you,

with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. {17} And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

In verses nine and ten, Paul summarizes the entire passage. It is what we call the key verse. He says, "since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.." We are to lay aside the old self and put on the new self. He gives several reasons why we need to do this, and then he gives some practical applications of how to put off the old self and put on the new self. That is what we are going to look at this morning.

(Col 3:9-10) "Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, {10} and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him."

### 1. Put aside the old self.

In verses one through four, Paul gives three reasons why Christians need to live this new life. First, he says that if **we have been raised up with Christ**, we should keep seeking the things above. If we are a Christian, we are no longer dead in our sins. The same power that resurrected Jesus from the dead gives us resurrection life. Second, he says if **we have died to the things that are on earth**, we should live this renewed life. Third, we should live a renewed life because **we are going to be revealed with Christ in glory**. We should start living this new life now.

(Col 3:1-4) "If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. {2} Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. {3} For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. {4} When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory."

This is a picture of baptism. When we are baptized or immersed in water, we are buried with Christ. We do not bury people that are alive. We bury people that are dead. When we receive Christ, we are to consider our old self as dead. We are to bury that old self, and we do that by being put under the water. Then, as Christ was raised from the dead, we are raised up out of the water to a resurrection life. We are to live a new life.

Recently, there have been a number of people brought back from the dead. I was telling my children about a man in New England that had died and was pronounced dead. His son and his pastor went to pray for him forty five minutes after he had been pronounced dead by the physicians. He told his Dad that it was not time for him to go, and to come back. Lo and behold, the man started breathing and within a few days was back at work. We saw a video clip of it.

When I told my children about this, it reminded me of a story about my mother's grandmother. They had pronounced her dead and several days later they were having her funeral. They had her in the casket at the front of the church. All at once in the middle of the funeral ceremony, she sat up in the casket. It must have been a pretty bizarre thing to get up and see everyone there at your funeral. But, normally, we do not bury people that are alive. We bury people that are dead.

Next Paul says, “therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead.” Because we have died with Christ and have been raised up with Him, **we are to consider or reckon the members of our earthly bodies as dead**. Dead members have no desire. Dead members have no choice. This is difficult because our members are still alive. You and I still have desires and passions. But, we are to consider them dead, but not dead to all things, only dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. Paul says that it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come, and in them we once walked when we were living in them.

(Col 3:5-7) “Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. {6} For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come, {7} and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.”

Before Christ, we were living in sin. We were slaves to sin. We were destined for wrath. Now, we have been forgiven of our sins. He has cancelled the decree of debt. He has justified us. He has exchanged our sin for righteousness. He has given us life. We are no longer destined for wrath, but will be revealed with Him in glory. We once walked and lived in those things, but our lives are different now that we have received Christ. If you have never received Christ, let me encourage you to place your trust in Him. Ask Him into your life. It is the greatest decision and most important decision that you can make in your life. Simply confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Your life will change. God has a new life for us. You will no longer walk and live in immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and greed.

Paul continues by telling us to put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech. We are no longer to lie to one another, since we laid aside the old self with its evil practices. Wait a minute. I thought once we confessed Christ, we would no longer walk and live in those evil practices. This sounds like there is something that we must do. Yes, you and I have a part to play in this new life. We must consider our members as dead to sin, and we are to put these things aside. We are to lay these things aside. **We have a responsibility to put aside anger, wrath, etc.**

(Col 3:8-9) “But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. {9} Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices”

There are two Greek words used in this passage for put. The first one is apotithemi (Strong’s G659), which means to lay aside. The second is enduo (Strong’s G1746a), which means to clothe or be clothed. The context is clothing, and we must take off and lay aside (apotithemi) the old clothes before we can put on (enduo) the new clothes. Paul tells us to put aside anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech. We have the freedom to take them off and put them aside. We are no longer slaves to sin. We have been set free from sin and death. We are now slaves of righteousness, and we are to lay aside all these things.

That sounds easy, but when people say or do things to you, and the anger begins to build, and you are wanting to tell others about how this person has hurt you, you are tempted. Paul is encouraging us to consider those desires dead. Do not listen or respond to them. Put them off. Lay those thoughts and feelings aside. Use self control and put them aside.

Having played sports most of my life, we know that we must have a good offense and a good defense to win games. In practice, each group is working on things to help them do a better job. In the games, they each take their turn, realizing that the game will not be won unless both parts play well. The team that wins must hold the other team to fewer points, and its offense must score more points. This is similar to living a new life. We must put off all these things; that is the defense. And, we must put on the new self, which is our offense. It is easier to put off those things when we are putting on the new self.

## 2. Put on the new self.

Paul gives several specific applications to help us put on the new self. He tells us to set our minds above. Second, he tells us to put on love. Last, he tells us that whatever we do in word or deed, we should do in the name of the Lord Jesus. This is the offense that helps us live a renewed life. We cannot just try and play defense and live a renewed life. We must play as a team, and do a good job at both parts.

### A. Set your minds above.

First, he tells us to set our minds above. The dictionary gave 85 different definitions, which included the follow: fix, focus, determine, be undistracted, to place someone or something in a particular place, to put in proper order, to fix or attach a price or value on something, to establish for others to follow. We are to fix our minds on things above. We are to focus on things above. We are to be undistracted on things above.

(Col 3:1-2) "If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. {2} Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

It is not a one-time event. Paul also tells us to keep seeking the things above. To seek means to look for, search out, pursue, try to find, follow after, discover, ask or request. We not only have to set our mind on things above, but we have to earnestly pursue and follow after the things above. We cannot allow the affairs of everyday life distract us from pursuing things above. I like the way Paul puts it in 2 Timothy. He says that "no soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier." A good soldier does not get distracted. He maintains his focus. We have to stay focused on the things above, not on the things on the earth.

(2 Tim 2:4) "No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier."

In verse ten, Paul tells us to put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him. How is our new self being renewed? **Our minds are renewed by setting our minds on things above.** I have found that reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on God's word are all excellent ways to renew my mind.

(Col 3:10) "and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him."

This renewal of the mind is available to all Christians. This new life is not just for some. All of us who have been buried with Christ, and have been raised up with Christ are to put on the new self and be renewed. In verse eleven Paul states, “a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.”

(Col 3:11) “--a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.”

In verse sixteen, Paul tells us **we are to let the word of Christ richly dwell within us.** Memorization, meditation, and studying God’s word is how the word of Christ richly dwells within me. I can read something and gain some knowledge, but when I meditate on a passage, the flavor and richness of the words begin to fill my heart. When a preacher just studies and prepares an outline, you have a nice neat sermon, but it lacks depth and flavor. When a preacher chews and meditates on a passage, it comes to life. It has lots of insights and applications that bring it to life. When a preacher meditates on a passage, he can then preach from his heart and not his head. Heart to heart impacts people more than head to head.

(Col 3:16) “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

In Romans 12:2, Paul tells us not to be conformed to the world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we might prove the will of God, that which is good, acceptable, and perfect. The renewing of our minds will produce a change in behavior. When we renew our minds, we will prove the will of God. When we renew our minds, we will live the new life that Paul is speaking about in this passage. The first key to a new life is to renew our minds. To do that, we have to set our minds on things above and then to keep seeking the things above.

(Rom 12:2) “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

## **B. Put on love.**

The second thing that we are encouraged to put on is love. He says, “as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”

(Col 3:12-13) "And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; {13} bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”

As we look at the words in this list of things to put on, we notice that they resemble the words used in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. We are to put on a heart of compassion and kindness. Paul says that love is kind. Colossians says to put on humility. Corinthians says that love does not brag and is not

arrogant. Colossians says to put on gentleness and patience. Corinthians says that love is patient. Colossians says to bear with one another and forgive one another. Corinthians says us that love does not take into account a wrong suffered and bears all things. These two lists are nearly identical.

(1 Cor 13:4-7) "Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, {5} does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, {6} does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; {7} bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

In verses 14, Paul says "beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity." It is if he thinks we might have missed what he is talking about so he spells it out loud and clear for us. He is telling us to put on love. **We are to put on love because it is the perfect bond of unity.** God wants us to be at peace, and he wants unity in the body. He has called us in one body. What does it take to have peace and to have unity? It takes a lot of love. We are to put on love.

(Col 3:14-15) "And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. {15} And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful."

I want to look at a specific Greek word for a minute. In verse 12, Paul says, "as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on..." The Greek word for "**put on**" is **enduo (G1746a), which means to clothe or be clothed.** In verse 14, our text reads, "beyond all these things put on love." The put on in this verse is in italics because there is no Greek word there. It is implied in the Greek and has been added in the English. We are to put on or clothe ourselves with love.

(Col 3:12) "And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart..."

A few weeks ago, at the request of our congregation, I did a message on being baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit. You might recall that Jesus told the disciples in Luke 24 that they were to stay in Jerusalem until they were clothed (enduo) with power from on high. This is the same enduo that Paul uses in Colossians. This is the same Holy Spirit and resurrection power that we are to be clothed with that helps us walk in love.

(Luke 24:49) "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

I want to show you another group of words that are very similar. It is found in Galatians 5:22-23. It says the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness.

(Gal 5:22-23) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

Notice that this list is nearly identical to the list in Colossians. How do we put on love? How do we put on peace? How do we put on kindness, gentleness, and self control? We put on the Holy Spirit. We clothe ourselves in the Holy Spirit. **When we are enduo or clothed with the Holy Spirit, we will bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit.**

Next, Paul says to let the word of Christ richly dwell within us and to teach and admonish one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in our hearts to God.

(Col 3:16) “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

The parallel verse to this is found in Ephesians 5:18-20. There, Paul tells us not to be drunk with wine, but to be filled with the Spirit. How do we get filled with the Holy Spirit? **We get filled by “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God.”**

(Eph 5:18-20) “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, {19} speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; {20} always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;”

What Paul is telling the Colossians is to put on the Holy Spirit. The way to put on the Holy Spirit is by speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Our worship fills us with the Holy Spirit. As John Dean said last week, we host the presence of the Lord through worship.

I want to go back to Galatians for one minute. In verse 16, Paul says to walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh. In our text today, we are to put on the new self and put off the old self. We put on the new self by clothing ourselves with the Holy Spirit. When we put on the Holy Spirit and walk by the Spirit, we will not have a problem putting off the old self or the flesh, which is our next point.

(Gal 5:16) “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”

### **C. Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

Finally, in verse 17, Paul says, “whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” There is much to be said about doing all in the name of the Lord Jesus. We believe in the name of Jesus. We bear His name. We pray in the name of Jesus. We command evil spirits to depart in the name of Jesus. We do miracles in the name of Jesus. We gather in Jesus name. Here, Paul says that whatever we do in word or deed should be done in the name of Jesus. What does that mean?

(Col 3:17) “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

Let me give an example of what it means to do something in the name of a person or organization. As a pastor at East Mountain Vineyard Church, I have signing privileges on our bank accounts. If I decided that I needed a new truck, and I went and bought a new truck, using the EMV funds, I would be in trouble. Why? Because the leadership of this church has given me authority to do business in the name of East Mountain Vineyard Church. It has not given me authority to use the



church funds for my personal affairs. I have been given authority to represent our church. When I write a check out with EMV on it, it is on behalf of this body.

In the same way, each of us is a representative of Jesus. We are His ambassadors. **We have been given authority to do kingdom business on His behalf.** Our authority has not been given to carry out our fleshly desires. It has been given to do God's business here on earth. Whatever we do, whether working, praying, meeting together, or whatever we say to anyone at anytime, it should be done as a representative of Jesus. It should be done in the name of Jesus.

When we ask in Jesus' name, we are praying with the authority that He has given us to carry out His will. We have to be sure that what we are asking or praying about is His will. Sometimes we pray our will, but Jesus told us to pray in this way, "not My will, but Thy will be done." We have authority to pray for those things that are His will. Therefore, when we pray in the name of Jesus, we must make sure that we are praying His will in the matter.

(John 14:13-14) "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. {14} "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."

When we gather together, we are to gather as His representatives. We are gathered together to encourage one another. We are gathered to worship the Lord. We are gathered to pray together. We are gathered to study His word and to be equipped. We are gathered to serve one another. We are gathered in the name of Jesus to accomplish His will among us.

(Matt 18:20) "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

**Introduction** (Col 2:9-10, Col 1:28-29, 2:23, 3:1-17)**1. Put aside the old self.**

Reason # 1: We have been \_\_\_\_\_ up with Christ. (Col 3:1-4)

Reason # 2: We have \_\_\_\_\_ to the things on earth. (Col 3:1-4)

Reason # 3: We will be \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ in glory. (Col 3:1-4)

- We are to consider the members of our earthly bodies as \_\_\_\_\_. (Col 3:5-7)
- We have a \_\_\_\_\_ to put aside anger, wrath, etc. (Col 3:8-9)

**2. Put on the new self.**

**A. Set your \_\_\_\_\_ above.** (Col 3:1-2, 2 Tim 2:4)

- Our minds are \_\_\_\_\_ by setting our minds on things above. (Col 3:10-11)
- We are to let the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ richly dwell within us. (Col 3:16, Rom 12:2)

**B. Put on \_\_\_\_\_.** (Col 3:12-13, 1 Cor 13:4-7)

- We are to put on \_\_\_\_\_ because it is the perfect bond of unity. (Col 3:14-15)
- Put on (enduo) means to \_\_\_\_\_. (Col 3:12, Luke 24:49)
- When we are \_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Spirit, we will bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Gal 5:22-23, 5:16)
- We get \_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Spirit by “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.... (Col 3:16, Eph 5:18-20)

**C. Do all in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus.** (Col 3:17)

- We have been given \_\_\_\_\_ to do kingdom business on His behalf. (John 14:13-14, Matt 18:20)

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