

PUTTING ON CHRIST

Pastor Lucas Almeida—February 6th, 2022—Central Baptist Church

Colossians 3:1-17

ESV

[1] If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. [2] Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. [3] For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. [4] When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

[5] Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. [6] On account of these the wrath of God is coming. [7] In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. [8] But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. [9] Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices [10] and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. [11] Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

[12] Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, [13] bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. [14] And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. [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 dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. [17] And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

MAIN POINT: If you are a Christian, you are in a constant, observable process of dying to your own vices and becoming alive to the virtues of Christ.

MIND (1-4)

The bible makes clear where change begins—in the inner person/in the mind.

Luke 14:25—“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple...”

BEHAVIOR (5-15)

The transformation of the mind inevitably leads to a transformation of behavior.

2 Corinthians 10:5—*We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...*

Change takes place for the Christian as we put off worldly vices and put on godly virtues.

By faith we must put off earthly vices.

Hebrews 12:1 says, “...let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...”

And why should we put off these vices?

- Because God's wrath is imminent for those whose lives are characterized by earthly vices.
- Because we have a new identity in Christ.

By faith we must put on heavenly virtues.

For the Christian, the process of change is complete once the earthly vice is replaced with the heavenly virtue. We don't merely stop doing what is wrong. We replace that which is wrong with that which is right.

WORSHIP (16-17)

“Human beings by their very nature are worshipers. Worship is not something we do; it defines who we are ... Everybody worships; it's just a matter of what, or whom, we serve.” —**Paul David Tripp** in *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*

Idolatry is not just bowing down before images made out of stone or wood. Idolatry is desiring anything that is not God more than God.

God calls us to approach him in his terms. This means worship is not about our preference, but about God's preference.

Christian change is not a mere program for self-improvement. Instead, it's an overhaul of a past sinful life that does not please God to a life that is totally directed towards the worship of God in Christ.