

**Message #15****Colossians 3:9-11**

The Apostle Paul wanted the Colossians to be dressed right. He wanted, in fact, he commanded that they put off certain things and put on certain things. There is a spiritual dress code to the Christian life and the believer who wants to become something powerful for God will follow it.

**BECAUSE OF A BELIEVER'S NEW STATUS IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, HE WILL PUT OFF THE OLD SINFUL PRACTICES AND PUT ON NEW RIGHTEOUS PRACTICES.**

The Apostle Paul wanted the believers in Colossae to have a new look to them. He wanted them to have a new earthly look that reflected their new heavenly life. Paul wanted a believer's practice on earth to reflect his position in heaven.

There are three main passages of Scripture in the New Testament where Paul uses this "old self" terminology and imagery: 1) Romans 6:6ff; 2) Ephesians 4:20-24; 3) Colossians 3:9-11.

**Observation #1** - For the believer, the old self, or old man, was crucified with Christ. Rom. 6:6

Obviously this crucifixion is a positional one for us, not a literal one for us. In other words, this is what judicially and positionally happened to us, in the mind of God, when we believed on Jesus Christ. In God's mind, the believer is so linked and identified with Christ that the old self was crucified.

**Observation #2** - For the believer, the old self, or old man, is still present. Eph. 4:22

Even though some with faulty and fuzzy theology claim that the old self is completely gone, Paul's point in Ephesians is that the old self is still operative and is continually being corrupted (present tense). It is this continual reality that should prompt the believer to continually develop the new self.

**Observation #3** - For the believer, the old self, or old man, can be discarded. **Col. 3:9**

It is the potential of every believer to "lay aside" the old self and "put on" the new self. Victory is a real possibility for the believer. Victory is a real expectation for the believer. The old self can be defeated.

The "old self" may be defined as our pre-Christian old Adamic status which includes our sin, our condemnation and our old nature.

The "new self" may be defined as our post-Christian status in Christ, which includes Christ's righteousness, our justification and our new nature.

At the moment we believed on Christ, God judicially calculated that our sin and condemnation were nailed to the cross and we instantly were calculated as being a new creation. Even though our “old self” is still present, we have been given a “new self” that is capable of great growth and development in the righteous things of God.

Now technically, **verses 9-11** are subordinate to the main challenge, “Do not lie to one another!” However, we agree with Dr. Richard Lenski, who says that these verses apply to the entire exhortation which begins at **verse 5**. In other words, these are reasons why we should put off the old sinful practices and put on new righteous practices.

**REASON #1** – Because of what has been laid aside. **3:9b**

The participle “having laid aside” is one that means at one moment in time, by calculation of God, we were stripped of our old self.

- 1) The word “old” speaks of something ancient, used and worn.
- 2) The word “practices” refers to action one was engaged in, including accomplishments, achievements and commitments—one’s pursuits.

At one moment in time, God decreed that the old self and all of the self-centered sinful practices were laid aside. God declared us righteous in Jesus Christ. Therefore, in view of such a wonderful transformation, we need to continue to rid ourselves of anything that resembles the old self.

When we came to faith in Christ, we were not just reformed, we were totally transformed. We were given a whole new status in the sight of God.

**REASON #2** – Because of what has been put on. **3:10-11**

Daille said: “Adam could corrupt and deform our nature, but he couldn’t repair or reform it into a new man (p. 524). Believers are a new creation, a new man. There are two words used for “new” and this word has to do with time. In other words, we are closer in time proximity to our spiritual birth than we are our physical birth.

Our physical birth is old and Adamic. Our spiritual birth is new and Christic. In the mind of God, the moment we believed on Christ, we became a “new” creation and we experience a new birth.

**Fact #1** - We are continually renewed by deep knowledge. **3:10a**

The way we transform our character from the old into the new is by deep knowledge of the Word of God. The words “true knowledge” are words that mean “knowledge-upon-knowledge,” or deep knowledge.

It is deep knowledge of God's Word that will produce a proper wardrobe for the believer. What to take off and what to put on will become very evident to us the deeper we grow in our understanding of the Word of God.

Those who flop around at a surface level will always continue to think and act just like their old self. But those who get serious about growing deep in the true knowledge of God's Word will think and act as the new self God saved them to become.

**Fact #2** - We are to be continually renewed into the image of God. **3:10b**

Deep knowledge of God's Word will conform us to God's image. Notice God is the one who created us both physically and spiritually. God is the one who gave us physical life and spiritual life. One reason why He gave us spiritual life is so we could develop in the new man to reflect His image.

The word "image" is one that often refers to a likeness like that of a parental likeness in a child (G. Abbott-Smith, p. 131).

God demands that we put off the old self and put on the new self so we will be a child who gives a good reflection of Him. When we live like, talk like, act like the old self prior to salvation, we do not present a good likeness for others to see of our great and glorious God.

We have not been saved just to go to heaven; we have been saved to make an impression in this world, to make a statement for God.

**Fact #3** - We are to be renewed into a new family . **3:11**

Those who know Jesus Christ are all in Him. There are no racial barriers, no national barriers, no religious barriers and no cultural or social barriers.

Scythia was located north of the Black and Caspian seas in southern Russia. During Paul's day, the people who lived there were known as the most barbaric people in the world. They were pagan, they were heathen, they were brutal, they were evil and they were mean. It is said that when they killed an enemy, they would scalp him, then cut off the top of his head and drink blood out of his skull. Josephus called the Scythians little better than "wild beasts." Herodotus called them "cannibals." Cicero called them "tyrants" (Cited from John Eadie, p. 237).

One's previous history is no excuse for not becoming a new man, because when Christ is in the life, He is all you need, He is everything you need to be completely transformed, and He is in all who believe.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it does not matter what side of the tracks you come from. You may be one who was very religious or very heathen. You may be one who was very social or very gross.

You may be one who was very rich or very poor. Here is the issue—every believer is to put off the old and put on the new. Every believer is expected, by God, to develop into the new man and Jesus Christ is all you need to do that. Christ is in all who believe and He is all you need.

If you wind up being one of the worst dressed people in heaven, you will only be able to blame yourself. Not your environment, not your dysfunctional family, not your hang-ups—you will only be able to blame yourself. Christ is all you need to be set free from everything.

Where do you begin?

- 1) Invite Christ into your life.
- 2) Get rid of sinful things and evil practices.
- 3) Start coming to church, learning and growing deep in the things of God.