

LIVING FOR JESUS WHILE ON EARTH

Colossians 3:1-14

INTRODUCTION: Christians become a new person in Christ after their salvation. Paul detailed some of the blessings that we have in Christ in the preceding chapters. We have Christ living in us. (Colossians 1:27) God has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son. (Colossians 1:13). We are redeemed by the blood of Christ, having received forgiveness of sins.

I. DISCARD THE OLD NATURE

A. DEATH OF THE OLD NATURE. (3:5)

Paul gave a strong command to all believers. The words mortify means to put to death. Believers have died to their old nature and have been born again. In Romans 6:6, Paul said, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

In Colossians 3:5-11, Paul tells us that we are not to allow the old sinful nature to have any rule over us. We are to put the old self to death. Romans 6:11 states: "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE OLD NATURE.

Sin in the Bible is defined in many ways. Paul lists five sins in verse 5 that are to be put to death. They are "fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry." These sins cause the wrath of God to come upon "the children of disobedience" according to Colossians 3:6.

Someone has written, "There is no one who has completely killed sin, and there is no sin that does not need killing. There is no sin so small that it can be allowed to remain; they must all be mortified." The Bible makes it clear that covetousness is idolatry. Once again, sin brings the "wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience."

Before experiencing salvation, many people were guilty of committing these sins. (v. 7) Even Christians can and do commit any of these sins.

In verse 8, believers are to "put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth." The new birth brings forth a change in believers.

According to Paul in verse 8, believers are to stop speaking and acting like their old, sinful selves. Their speech and behavior must conform to the likeness of Christ. They are in Christ, and their life is to reflect Christ. The Bible says in verse 9 that believers were to stop lying to one another, and "put off the old man with his deeds."

II. DRESSED IN THE NEW NATURE

A. NEW BIRTH.

The person who repents of his sins and trusts Christ as his Savior is born again in the Spirit. He becomes a new creature in Christ. Paul spoke of putting on the new man in verse 10. Salvation is a life-changing experience. We read in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

The believer is to grow in Christ while putting off the old man and putting on the new man. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 4:16, "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." When writing Colossians 3:10, Paul wrote, "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him."

B. NEW IDENTITY (v. 12)

In verse 10, believers are to put on the "new man" and be "renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." The new man is newly regenerated, having a spiritual nature after becoming a born-again Christian. The Christian has the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in him, so he can be renewed every day.

We must remember that as believers, we have Christ in us "the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27) The Bible tells us in Ephesians 4:23 to "be renewed in the spirit of your mind."

Colossians 3:11 states: "Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all."

Paul stated in Colossians 3:12 since we are new creatures in Christ that we are to: "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;" All born-again Christians are secure in Christ.

III. DEVOTED TO ALL CHRISTIANS (v. 13-14)

A. FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER. (v. 13)

Christians are commanded to forgive one another. It is a Christian virtue taught by Christ and the Scripture. The Bible says in Ephesians 4:30-32, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Believers are told not to sin against the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity. We are not to grieve Him in any way that causes the Spirit to be sorrowful or feel pain. He is our spiritual companion who seals us as believers to the day of redemption.

B. FERVENT LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER. (v. 14)

Jesus taught in John 13:34, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." In Colossians 3:14, Paul made it clear that love is the greatest virtue Christians are to have, "which is the bond of perfection."

Paul taught in Romans 13:8-10 saying, "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

LESSONS FOR LIFE:

1. Only when we desire to please God more than self will we take our sin seriously.
2. Each Christian is to appropriate by faith these promises and principles.
3. As Christians, we should live as citizens of heaven and not as slaves to this world.

