

Colossians 3:1-17 Part 2—After the image of its creator
(June 28, 2020: prepared by Dorry Kenyon)

A. Review/Introduction

Think before you speak/act

Knowledge → Action (word/deed)

Renewed Knowledge (by the Holy Spirit) → Renewed Action (word/deed)

Regeneration → Justification → **Sanctification** → Glorification

So during this period of sanctification, what does that renewed action look like?

Two Key Verses

Colossians 3:9-10

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*.

Colossians 3:17

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.

B. PASSAGE Col 3:1-17

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.*

C. QUESTIONS

1. What characterizes the actions of the old self (i.e., actions of the unrenewed mind)?

(see Colossians 3:5-9a above)

2. What characterizes the actions of the new self?

(see Colossians 3:12-14 above)

3. What are the origins of these characteristics of the new self?

Colossians 3:9-10

⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge *after the image of its creator*.

Examples from the list in Colossians 3:12-14

(a) compassionate hearts: Matthew 14:14

When he [Jesus] went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had **compassion** on them and healed their sick.

(b) humility: Philippians 2:3,5,8

³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in **humility** count others more significant than yourselves...⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,⁸ ... being found in human form, **he humbled himself** by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

(c) patience: 1 Timothy 1:16

But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect **patience** as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

(d) love: 1 John 3:16

By this we know **love**, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

Conclusion: Colossians 1:15

¹⁵He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

4. So is “to put on the new self” the same as “to put on Christ?”

Romans 13:13-14

¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴**But put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

5. Is putting on Christ something optional for the believer?

(a) If you are united to Christ by faith...

Galatians 3:25-28

²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for ***in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.*** ²⁷ *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ **have put on Christ.*** ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for *you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

(b) Being *conformed* to Christ's image is God's goal for us.

Romans 8:29

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the **image** of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

(c) Our *transformation* is happening by the Holy Spirit as we get to know the Lord better and better.

2 Corinthians 3:18

¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same **image** from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

6. If these things are true, why does Paul use the commands "put off" and "put on"?

a.) By faith we are united as one in Christ—a spiritual reality in heaven.

Colossians 3:10-11

...[you] 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.***

Galatians 3:28

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for *you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

b.) But on earth, we don't always act by the truth of the gospel.

Galatians 2:11-14a

¹¹ But when Cephas [Peter] came to Antioch, I [Paul] opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews *acted hypocritically* along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when *I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel,* I said to Cephas before them all,...

c.) In this “already/not yet” period, we need the continual encouragement:

renewed knowledge → repentance and faith → walking

Colossians 2:6-7

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so walk in him*, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

7. What is the summary of all this “putting off” and “putting on”?

Colossians 3:17

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.

D. APPLICATION

1. Get the foundation right: Not in order to be loved by God, but because we are loved

Colossians 3:12

Put on then, *as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved*, compassionate hearts,...

2. In this area, we work with God as he works in us

Philippians 2:12-13

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, *work out your own salvation with fear and trembling*, ¹³*for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

3. Have confidence in God's work in you!

Philippians 1:6

6 And I am sure of this, *that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion* at the day of Jesus Christ.

4. Model Prayer – Knowledge → Action

May we pray like this for each other as Paul prayed for the Colossian believers:

Colossians 1:9-14

⁹And so, from the day we heard [of your faith in Christ Jesus], we have not ceased to pray for you, *asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding*, ¹⁰*so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord*, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.