

## Consecrate Yourselves Unto God 3

Colossians 3:9-17 ... seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. <sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.

### ❖ Introduction

- Remember our call to Holiness
- You can not deal with these verses without being affected...
  - Without their influencing who you are
- We have Much to Change as a People... and we must get to it!

### ❖ Recap

- The main thrust of what we looked at last week was idol worship
  - We said, don't be an idol worshipper
- Rather... Put those things to death... become a killer
  - Take off the old things... put them away from you
- We noticed that this does not happen accidentally
  - 1) We must starve these earthly things 2) And we must crowd them out with heavenly things...

### ❖ A) 2 Things We Didn't finish last week

- 1) Remember Your Former Ways
  - <sup>7</sup> In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.
  - Remember the List
  - Humility Helps us put them away
    - Remember this is what you were like
  - He says you ONCE walked in them
    - Consider what Paul is saying... He assumes that the person that has **put** on Christ
    - That this person is **different** now... That He is **not** going to live in these ways
  - He reminds you of your former self...
    - He says you walked in all of these sins... when you were **living** in them...
    - **And remember, they all seem to originate from Coveting... the greed of wanting more**
      - ◆ The opposite of being content with what God has given you
      - ◆ Paul informs us... this is idolatry... we are worshipping self...
  - Your old self was rebellious toward God...
    - You treated God in a way He did not deserve
    - If ever a being deserved gratefulness it is God
    - He provides life and pleasure and food and drink and air for your lungs
    - He provides energy to your body that your heart may beat
    - He provides every ounce of ability you have to make every cent you ever earned...
  - Yet, you walked against God...
    - We would not treat any other person who was kind to us in this manner

- Yet we had spurned God and rebelled against Him
- And we worshipped ourselves instead of our God...
- **An Aside:**
  - **Let me speak briefly to those who have known only a little rebellion before Christ**
    - ◆ Never think yourself as more worthy of Jesus divine love
    - ◆ Just because He was gracious to you at an early age
    - ◆ An age before your body and mind began to desire the greater pleasures of sin
  - **But be sure... God has saved you from all of those things that others have done**
    - ◆ He just never allowed you to fall into them...
  - **Remember, it was ONE sin that Adam and Eve committed that**
    - ◆ Brought about their death and banishment from the garden
    - ◆ And as James says... you can keep the whole of God's law yet err in one way
      - And you are considered guilty of all
  - **Praise God this morning in your new heart...**
    - ◆ For His mercy on your life as to keep you from the guilt and pain of "uncommitted sin"

## ➤ 2) God Hates These Things

- **6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.**
- **Do Not think for one second that God is ok with your sin**
  - He is not... He has a hatred for it... And a right to execute judgment
- **People are so egocentric**
  - They think this universe revolves around them (We all have this tendency)
- **If God...**
  - Wants to do this or that... what could we say
  - We are but dust, and He can do with us as He pleases
  - **Do we care when we step on an ant pile, or pour gas on it or put poison on it...**
    - ◆ They are but ants...
    - ◆ We are less than ants compared to God
    - ◆ And an can sting us and harm us...
    - ◆ How can we truly harm God?
- **Thanks be to God He is Pleased to be merciful towards us...**
- **This is not some long list of legalistic rules that we need to follow**
  - These things that Paul mentions are qualities that God hates
  - They run contrary to God's character
- **It is important to know the heart of God regarding this matter...**
  - What does God expect from us?
    - ◆ Since He will be our judge
    - ◆ We need to know what is pleasing and what is not
  - **Example: U need to know what your loved one likes before suprising them**
    - ◆ It would stink to buy her a personalized calendar for Christmas when she wanted something else... har har... I did this to my wife...
- **God's wrath is coming on account of these things**
  - So... let us be careful not to go back to them... but to move on from them

## ❖ Look at Paul's Flow

### ➤ First, He gives us a foundation

- A strategy to win...
- **Seek the things above... Set your mind on things above**
  - Namely Jesus

- **Then He tells you to kill the sin and idol worship in your life**
  - He gives you a list to look at and consider
- **He reminds you this is who you used to be**
  - He reminds you that God's wrath is coming b/c of these things...
  - Now He is again going to **remind** you who you are
  - Then instead of telling you what you **shouldn't** do
  - He is going to tell you what you **should** do

❖ **Before We continue and further...**

- **Now, let me skip to the end this morning...**
  - Because I want you to see where we are going... whenever we get there
- **I believe this is the key to the whole of Paul's instructions...**
  - He has already said this in the first two verses...
  - Which we dealt with in detail...
  - He said **seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above,**
- **This morning we are heading toward verse 16**
  - **Colossians 3:16 <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...**
  - That is rich isn't it?...
  - **The Words of Jesus should live in you extravagantly...**
    - We will consider this more later...
    - Let me just ask this question?
    - **How well off are Christ's Words living in you?**
      - ◆ Are they dwelling richly... extravagantly...
      - ◆ Are there so many that when you dig in you find them in abundance?
      - ◆ Or are they on welfare? Are they living in poverty?
  - **You will NEVER win... You will NEVER put to death the things that are earthly in you**
    - Unless the Word of Christ dwells richly in you... Never!
    - We will consider this more when we get to verse 16

**If you want to Set Yourself Apart... You have to understand what is going on in you...**

❖ **1) We are Called to Live as the New Person We Are**

- **seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.**
- **Seeing that you...**
  - Remember where He is coming from here...
  - After listing all the evil ways we used to walk, or could have walked in...
    - He says, put them off...
  - **Seeing that you have... you have put off the old self... and put on the new self...**
    - **He is going to go on to say... now... Put on:**
      - ◆ **compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another ... forgiving each other; and put on love... and be thankful, and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...**
      - ◆ **That is where He is going...**
        - But first... He wants you to know something...
        - And He has done this already... remember...
          - **You have been raised with Christ... you have died with Christ... you have been hidden with Christ...**
- **He says: You have put off the old self with its practices... And put on the new self**

- **This is what has happened when you were converted... born again...**
  - This is who you are...
  - **Illustration: You have Put off the old self... and put on the new self...**
    - ◆ Paul is thinking in terms of garments...
    - ◆ Remember last week we talked a bit about the clothing we would wear working
    - ◆ I talked about clothes I wear when working with cows... how nasty they get...
    - ◆ And they are taken off... then I put on new clean clothes...
      - **This is what has happened and also is happening...**
- **This is not easy to understand is it?**
  - He said we **must** put off these sinful ways...
  - We must put them to death
- **Yet, here he says we HAVE put off the old self already...**
  - So, what is he talking about????
  - Why do we need to put away something if we have already put it away?
    - ◆ Great question... let's ask another... then answer both:
- **What is this old self? What is this new self?**
  - There is much that could be gotten into here
  - But we are going to make it simple...
- **Explanation: You used to have a different nature... now you have a new one...**
  - You are a fundamentally different person...
  - Look Back: Who is he talking to? Verse 1: **If you have been raised with Christ...**
- **Scripture describes it like this:**
  - **Ezekiel 36:26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.**
  - **This explains in detail what has occurred to the newly born again believer**
    - ◆ **He had a heart of stone toward God**
      - It was dead to living for God and His ways
    - ◆ **And God comes along and removes it**
      - God does some Spiritual Heart Surgery...
      - And He gives you a heart of flesh...
      - It is not a lifeless stone, rather it is living
    - ◆ **This new heart that you now have is in reference to:**
      - The innermost center of the human being... not the organ
      - This is the dwelling place of your desires and motives and view of self
      - It is who we really are...
    - ◆ **We have heard the saying... let's get to the heart of the matter...**
      - This means let's get down to what it is really all about...
  - **When God gives us a new heart...**
    - ◆ He changes who we were...
    - ◆ The desires and motives of who we really are have been changed...
  - **I find it very easy to understand like this:**
    - Instead of living for myself, I now live for God
    - ◆ **Jesus put it like this: Matt 10:39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**
    - ◆ **Paul put it like this... Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.**
      - This is what it means to have a new heart...
- **BUT: Although you now have a new heart, or new nature...**

- You still live in the **same body**...
- And this body still has sinful **desires**...
- But, if you want to **live**... and especially if you want to live **for God**...
  - ◆ you must **put** the ways or behaviors of the old self to death
- **Paul says... With it's practices:**
  - Who you were before Christ lived differently...
  - It had practices... this just means **behaviors**
  - You used to **behave** a certain way...
  - **Example:**
    - ◆ Someone wronged you and you tried to get back at them
    - ◆ Someone said something against you, you said something against them
    - ◆ **Your old self had practices...**
      - I think Paul listed many of them in the previous verses
      - When He talked about sexual immorality and covetousness
      - Which is idolatry
      - And when he talked about how we were toward others...
      - Our feelings and actions toward them
    - ◆ These were all behaviors of the old self...
- **Now: Notice the order of this verse (this is of great importance to your understanding)**
  - You have put on the new self... **which is being renewed**...
    - Do you notice that something **HAS** happened... and something **IS** happening...
      - ◆ **HERE IS YOUR ANSWER!**
  - **That day the Holy Spirit awakened your heart to know Jesus**
    - You took on a new nature... You were made holy in your position with God
    - Your account was settled...
  - **Then, the process began...**
    - The process whereby you grow in your knowledge of God
    - So you may be **transformed** by the renewal of your mind
    - So you may be **conformed** to the image of Jesus
  - **You can not understand or live out the Christian walk without understanding this**
    - Can Lead to too much guilt or apathy or self righteousness
  - **You are transformed and being transformed... it is a beautiful mystery**
    - Yet no longer a mystery rather a foundational truth for the Christian
- **Notice what Paul says:**
- **Which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator**
  - What does he mean here?
    - Your New Self is growing... and it is growing more and more to be like Jesus...
- **Let's look closer: He says your new self is being renewed...**
- **Renewed in knowledge**
  - You are new and becoming new...
  - This new self is being renewed in knowledge...
  - Knowledge here refers to a complete and full knowing
- **After the image of its creator**
  - Hebrews says that Jesus is the exact imprint of the nature of God...
  - Here we see we going to become more and more like the image of our creator...
  - The new self is becoming like the creator... not in His divine being, but His divine morality
- **Let's Ponder this for a minute**
  - God is going to take an old sinful and idol worshipping person...
  - And transform him until he looks like Jesus...
  - That is your destiny... that is your future...

- **Wow! Why are we messing about so much now**
  - Why are we allowing old practices to have their way...
- **We all must consider:**
  - If these things are true... And they are
  - **Yet there is no progression in you...**
    - even the smallest progression is progression
  - **You must wonder if the new birth has ever occurred in your life**
    - If you have never been given a new heart...
    - Then you still have a heart of stone that does what?
    - It lives for self right? It is not alive to God
  - I pray this morning that God opens the eyes of the blind that they may see!
- **Also: We must consider**
  - This renewal in knowledge...
  - It is tightly connected to the Word of Christ...
  - **Wonder why you struggle and lose so much in your battle against sin, self and satan**
    - How richly is the Word of Christ dwelling within you...?
    - Your new self that is being renewed in knowledge...
    - Is not being renewed without the Word of God...
  - **It is like:**
    - A student becoming a doctor without taking a class and studying his book
    - It is like an actor who never studies the nature and ways of the person he is portaying...
      - ◆ Now, we are no actor... Christians are like Christ...
      - ◆ But to be like Christ we must know who Christ is...
  - **There are other ways we are being renewed... but they all hinge on the Word of God**
    - Our experiences, our struggles, our sufferings, our temptations, our joys, our delights, our encounters with other believers, our encounters with non Christians...
    - All of these things flowing through the Word of Christ, **grow** us into His image

## ❖ 2) All Types of Men are Included (very brief)

- **<sup>11</sup> Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.**
- **Believers have put on the new self**
  - Which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator
  - This happens to EVERYONE that believes!!!
- **There is no room for separation among peoples groups**
  - If God is **over** all peoples... Then He is **for** all peoples
  - And all peoples have access to Jesus through faith and repentance
- **You have more in common with the Islamic State Member who becomes a Christian**
  - Than you own flesh and blood that lives in unbelief
- **This Renewal has occurred over all cultures and ways of life...**
  - Why? Because:
- **Christ is all, and in all**
  - There is no favoritism with Jesus...
  - Paul brings up natural divisions of religion and culture and social standing
  - Jesus is the Lord of the wealthy and Lord of the poor
- After this brief statement, Paul get's back to his previous line of thinking...

## ❖ 3) God Chose You

- **<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,**
- **He is about to get into the what we are to look like... (put on then)**

- He has already told us what we are not to look like
- And He has told us why we are not to look this way...
- Before He does, He wants to remind us of one more thing
- **We are chosen by God...**
  - The NASB translates verse 12 like this: *So, as those who have been chosen of God*
- **Those who have been chosen of God...**
  - **The joy of being chosen...**
    - I have been on both ends of being chosen in life
    - Remember P.E. and your lined up to be chosen for teams...
    - **The joy of being one of the first is wonderful...**
      - ◆ It is usually based on your abilities...
    - **But the disappointment of being left out**
      - ◆ Not being chosen is the worst... usually it was because they perceived you had no skill
  - **God chose us out of His own free will...**
    - He did not line us up and choose those with the greatest abilities
    - Rather, He chose us when we had no ability
    - When we were **dead** in our trespasses and sin
  - **Get the lie out of your mind that there was something inherently good about you**
    - That is not from the Bible
    - That is what men have concocted to keep their pride and self righteousness alive
    - They say... Look at me... Why wouldn't God choose me...
- **No, We were His enemies...**
  - And now we are His chosen ones...
    - *If you have been raised with Christ...*
- **What an honor...**
  - God did not spare the mighty beautiful angels that sinned against Him
  - He has given them no recourse for repentance and forgiveness
  - But on man He has chosen us for salvation through His Son...
- **In the Early years of the nation of Israel**
  - God chose a young boy named David to be King
  - And David, for the most part, saw this as a great honor
  - And He lived most of His life in honor of God
  - He walked in the ways of God...
  - He responded to God's choosing of him as King with gratitude
- **Until one day He sinned mightily against God**
  - *2 Samuel 12:7,9 Nathan then said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul... 'Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight?*
    - **When He did this, God said why? Have I not done all these things for you**
- **We are God's Chosen Ones**
  - We are to live that way... He reminds us... We are Holy and beloved...
  - God loves us, He has chosen us and He has made us Holy
  - Do not **despise** the Word of the Lord by doing evil... **Rather...**

❖ **4) Put On Godliness (We will pick up here next week... but lets preview)**

- *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.*

➤ **Now Paul is going to get into the nuts and bolts of godly living**

- Living that is set apart...

- He already gave us some things to put away from us
  - To put to death... so we are to become killers in that sense..
- **Here Paul tells us what we are to Put on...**
  - Here He lists some things that should be part of the Christian's life
  - Our lives should be marked by these qualities...
  - **I believe these qualities are harder to come by than putting off the earthly deeds...**
    - People maybe can stop doing certain things because they are easy to notice
    - Because they may be damaging to a person
    - So they reform themselves...
- **You can not fulfill this list... if it is not in your nature to do so...**
  - Remember we said that 90% of our actions are just reactions...
  - We do not think through them, we just do them...
  - Here Paul gives us a list that can only be fulfilled if we are walking with Jesus...
- **Jesus is our treasure:**
  - This list doesn't happen, isn't who we are, unless we make Jesus our Treasure.
  - **Paul is giving us this list, but it is with the understanding that:**
    - You have been raised with Christ... You are seeking the things above...
    - You are setting your mind on the things above...
    - you are being renewed in knowledge to be like the image of your creator
    - And most importantly... You are letting the Word of Christ dwell in you richly...
- **When we start with Jesus...**
  - When we seek His ways and His person...
  - We are transformed... we are changed...
- **Then we will be able to have:**
  - **compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,**
  - **We will bear with one another... We will forgive the complaints of others**
  - **Just as Jesus has forgiven us**
  - **We will put on love which binds everything together in perfect harmony**
  - **We will be able to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts**
  - **We will be thankful... we will teach and admonish one another in wisdom**
  - **We will sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in our hearts to God!**
- **And Finally... this last point He makes will be true of us**
  - **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.**
  - Our lives will be so saturated with Jesus that everything we do...
  - If we speak or do anything... it will be in the name of the Lord Jesus...
  - This is our goal...
- **Remember the Key though:**
  - **Verse 16 Let the Word of Christ dwell Richly in you!**
    - Is this true of you, or are there other things that have better living quarters in you?

## ❖ Invitation

- *Spurgeon: To sanctify a man is the work of the whole life; but to give a man a new heart is the work of an instant in one solitary second, swifter than the lightning flash, God can put a new heart into a man, and make him a new creature in Christ Jesus. You may be sitting where you are to-day, an enemy to God, with a wicked heart within; hard as a stone, and dead and cold; but if the Lord wills it, the living spark shall drop into your soul, and in that moment you will begin to tremble—begin to feel; you will confess your sin, and fly to Christ for mercy. Other parts of salvation are done gradually but regeneration is the instantaneous work of God's sovereign, effectual, and irresistible grace.*