

In the previous chapter Paul wrote that the Colossians had new life in Christ. Now he reminds them of how their new life and identity instructs them to live. He describes the implications of this new life, exhorting his reader to live a life characterized by their new identity that comes from knowing Jesus and being empowered by his Holy Spirit.

Colossians 3:1-17

The Old Self, and the New Self

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

While it may sound superficial or silly, we all have a particular piece of clothing that tends to be one of our favorite things to wear. Perhaps for the purpose of comfort, maybe a flattering fit, or because of how others perceive us when it's being worn, clothing can be one of those things we're all able to relate to when it comes to looking/feeling a specific way.

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW can a wardrobe affect the way you act?

HAVE you ever had to fight to get rid of a particular personality trait or character flaw, then replace it with another?

DO you think it's more difficult to lose the negative character traits of your life, or to gain the new and edifying ones? **WHY?**

Colossians 3:1-17

Read Colossians 3:1-17

The Old Self, and the New Self

OBSERVATION

What is the rhetorical question Paul asks in vs. 1, and how are we to live regarding our response to the question?

Explain the contrast observed in vs. 2?

What is true of our position with Christ in vs. 3?

According to vs. 5-9, list all the things Paul calls us to “put off”.

In vs. 10 what does Paul call us to “put on”, and what are the characteristics he mentions, specifically, in vs. 12-14?

As you consider vs. 15 what should rule in our hearts?

According to vs. 16, what should rule in us richly, and how are we to admonish one another?

What ought to be our motivation for all we do, according to vs. 17?

INTERPRETATION

Verse 1-3 begins this section with a cause and effect. What is the *cause* we’ve experienced as Christians, and what *effect* does it have on our lives? (Remember 2:14-15 as well)

What is the relevance of where Christ is seated in vs. 1? Consider Exodus 15:6, Psalm 110, Ephesians 1:20.

What does Paul mean when he says that we have “died” in vs. 3? (see Col . 1:21-22 and 2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

How does the reality of who we now are in Christ enable us to “put off” the earthly way of living and now “put on” the new self?

Discuss how God’s Word, teaching, admonishing, singing, and thankfulness all practically help us allow the peace of God to rule in our hearts (vs. 16-16).

APPLICATION

From the items listed in this section, what are the things you need to “put off” and what are the things you need to “put on”? What steps will you begin to take this week (consider vs. 15-16) to do so?