

## Colossians 2.16-3.17, Living As New Creations

Since we have been rooted, if we are to be built up and established so that we can walk in a manner worthy of Him, then we must abandon the old world and embrace Christ's new creation.

Paul says "therefore..."

### I. What must we abandon?, 2.16-23

- **Legalism**

- "Let no one pass judgment"

- Let no one judge whether or not you are saved based on the number of "rules" you keep

- Food and drink

- Holidays

- Sabbath

- **Legalism:**

- *Is joyless*

- *It demands uniformity*

- *It produces surface faith*

- Shadow of the body

### - **Let no one disqualify — let no one create levels of holiness**

- **Asceticism**

- Monks, fasting, false humility and piety.

- **Mysticism**

- Worship of angels

- Visions

- **Ego** — "puffed up by sensuous mind"

- All of this puts the focus on me. What I am doing, what you are not doing, how I am doing in comparison with you.

- These things create arrogance, competition, division

- *They break us from the head as we head out on our own and make it about us.*

*Paul calls these things “worldly regulations.”* According to our own made up rules. They make you look wise and look holy. But they will in no way conquer the flesh.

- These things will not bring you closer to God, give you more of his Spirit within you. And will not make you a more holy person.
- And no amount of human effort has ever conquered sin.

## II. Embrace what?, 3.1-4

### 1. *Christ, v. 1-2*

- If you have died to worldly principles, why do you still seek to live by them? Instead, set your mind on your new life.
- Set your mind on things above — actively, intentionally think about heavenly, holy, righteous things

### 2. *Your salvation, v. 3*

### 3. *Your eternal reality, v. 4*

## III. How?

### • *Put off the old world, 3.5-11*

- We need to identify our sin and put it to death...not just put to the side
- Paul speaks of our actions and attitudes:
  - **Sexual immorality**
  - **Impurity** — in thought, word, and action
  - **Passion** — lust; uncontrolled desire
  - **Evil desire** — just general sinful desires
  - **Covetousness...idolatry**
- All of these speak to our selfish desires
  - “The wrath of God is coming” — points back to the Garden, and Adam and Eve’s selfish desires.

### • *Paul gives another list.* Where the first spoke to our internal sinfulness, these speak to our sin towards others:

- **Anger**
- **Wrath** — rage
- **Malice** — wickedness
- **Slander**
- **Obscene talk**

- **Do not lie to one another** — interesting that this is singled out
  - Because God does not lie to us

**Verse 11.**

1. ***No one is exempt from putting off the old self.*** There is never an excuse for unchecked passion or desires, of any kind. There is never an excuse for the mistreatment of another person.
    - “Well, he started it” .....Doesn’t matter.
  2. ***If we look at this second list as treatment of others, Paul says that we are all one and the same in Christ.*** We all put on the same newness. Christ is all. Christ is in all.
    - Greek and Jew speak of nationality — American and Mexican
    - Circumcised and uncircumcised speak of religious background — formerly Jewish, Muslim, atheist.
    - Barbarian and Scythian speak to culture — Northerner, Southerner; republican, democrat
    - Slave and free speak of social status — rich, poor
- In Christ, none of these things matter. He died for each of us equally.
  - **Put on the new creation;**
    - Put on the attitude and character of Christ
      - **Compassion** — combination of pity and tenderness
      - **Kindness** — graciousness
      - **Humility** — something our world needs more of
      - **Meekness** — gentleness; consideration for rights and feelings of others; and something else needed in this world.
      - **Patience** — long-suffering; self-restraint
        - Bearing with one another — willingness to put up with people’s faults and irritants
        - Forgiveness — willingness to put aside offenses for the sake of Christ
      - **Love** — it is the summation of all the others but at the same time it’s own unique quality
    - ***Let the Peace of Christ rule in your hearts***— shalom
      - Peace toward others and inner peace
    - **And be Thankful**
      - combats covetousness and competition. And inner anxiety, which destroys the peace in our hearts.

- *Let the Word dwell in you richly*

- Through teaching and admonishing
- Through singing of psalms, hymns, and spirituals
- Through thankfulness in your hearts to God.

**And whatever you do...**

- Just in case you thought you found a loophole, Paul gives a summarizing statement. Let all your thoughts, and all your actions be pleasing and honoring to Christ. Who is your life. Who died for your sins. Who brought you new life. Who is seated in heaven, and will one day return, and when he does you will appear with him in glory.