

**Scripture: Colossians 3:1-17**

**So if you have been raised with Christ**, 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, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: **fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed** (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup> But now you must get rid of all such things—**anger, wrath, malice, slander**, and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup> In that renewal **there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free**; but Christ is all and in all!

<sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> **Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.** <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with 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 the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; **teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs 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.

In the month April, we are talking about the theme of "Resurrection Consequences" – the impact of Jesus rising from the dead on our lives.

Of all the passages that deals with this theme, I cannot think of another passage that describes the tangible impact of the resurrection on our lives, better and in depth, than Colossians 3. Paul begins the passage by stating that we are a "**new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator**", as we **have been raised with Christ**. A new person emerges...transformation occurs...old self diminishes and the new, renewed and transformed person emerges – like a butterfly that emerges from a cocoon!

Apostle Paul describes five areas of our being that is transformed by the glory of Risen Christ living and growing in us. The 5 areas of our lives impacted are as follows;

**1. Our Minds and Will**

<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: **fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed** (which is idolatry).

**2. Emotions**

<sup>8</sup> But now you must get rid of all such things—**anger, wrath, malice, slander,**

**3. New Relationships – A new way of relating to others**

**there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free...**

and a new strategy emerges that allows for deep and meaningful relationships to develop.

<sup>13</sup> **Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.**

<sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with 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 the one body.

**4. New Spiritual Connection**

<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; **teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.**

When you sit and look at the categories being addressed by Paul – 1) the mind and will, 2) the emotions, 3) new relationships, and 4) the spiritual renewal and disciplines - it becomes apparent that the “whole person” is being renewed, not just some parts of our lives.

Many of us compartmentalize our lives before God. Some of us are transformed religiously – love God for sure, committed and disciplined, but our emotional and motivational centers are locked away from God.

I told this story few weeks ago at the Holy Smoke Café. I once read a wonderful tribute about a wonderful Christian man on Facebook written by a friend of mine

who is a minister in our church. He was paying tribute to a man who mentored him as he was becoming a minister. Of the dozens of attributes said about the man, deep thinker...a mentor...committed Christian...wonderful man..., a word stood out to me..."Cantankerous". Apparently, he was difficult to deal with at times. How can this be, I thought, not because I've never known a person like this – the tribute almost described my Father to a tee – but because it seemed so unbelievable that a man so touched by God, would let one area of His own life be untransformed! For all of us here, one or perhaps two areas of our lives are veiled and cloistered off from God.

Paul uses two verbs, "To put off" the old self and "to put on" the new self, and the verbs used are "aorist participles", which are perhaps grammatically the most difficult verbs to understand. But here is great summary of what the verbs may convey;

“...the aorist participle can be of service in many situations, whether the action in view is **prior to or coincident**...and whether the action denoted by the participle itself is **punctiliar or ongoing**. The aorist participle does not stipulate any of these; **it allows for all of these.**

I know, I know...what does this mean?

Our transformation of being made into the image of the creator through Christ was already done! It is in this sense, a punctiliar and prior event. But it also means that our transformation is on going and coincident to our lives as we grow! Meaning we are in the process of being transformed. We actively participate in this transformation by opening and confessing our lives to God so that He can take off the old and put on the new image of Christ.

May we permit God to enter every hidden corner of our lives so that a new person made in the image of the creator can emerge...Amen.