

5. How Then Shall We Live? Putting On the New Man

Colossians 3:10-17

Last time we looked at putting off the old man. What we need to get rid of in our lives. Now we look at putting on the new man. The things, with the Holy Spirit's help, we need to nurture.

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

[10] 因你们已经脱去旧人和旧人的行为，穿上了新人。这新人在知识上渐渐更新，正如造他主的形像。

The new man is said to be “*renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created Him.*” Man was originally “*made in the image of God.*” But we lost that after the fall. And when we receive the new birth, we gain it again, it's “*renewed*” in us. An equivalent passage in Ephesians says:

Ephesians 4:24

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

并且穿上新人。这新人是照着神的形像造的，有真理的仁义，和圣洁。

So the “*image of God*” involves three things: knowledge (spiritual), righteousness and holiness, all of which were lost at the fall, and are regained on receiving the new birth.

11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

[11] 在此并不分希利尼人，犹太人，受割礼的，未受割礼的，化外人，西古提人，为奴的，自主的，惟有基督是包括一切，又住在各人之内。

In the world there are divisions. To the Jew, the big division was that of Jew and Gentile (Greek). Circumcised and uncircumcised. But there are other divisions. Each nation is a division in itself, Barbarian, Scythian etc. There are social divisions, like the one between slave and free. These are all outward divisions. But in reality, only one division matters. The division between those who've received this new birth, and those who haven't. Only if we have received the new birth can we begin to mortify the old man and put on the new man. And here we've got a list of things to nurture:

12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering. 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

[12] 所以你们既是神的选民，圣洁蒙爱的人，就要存怜悯，恩慈，谦虚，温柔，忍耐的心。倘若这人与那人有嫌隙，总要彼此包容，彼此饶恕。主怎样饶恕了你们，你们也要怎样饶恕人。

God's chosen people, those who've been "risen with Christ," are "holy and beloved." We're holy, separate from the world. Still in the world, but not of it. These are the things we should be nurturing: "bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering." What have they all got in common? They're all fruit of the Spirit. At this point we need to look at a similar passage in Galatians:

Galatians 5:19-25

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

[19] 情欲的事都是显而易见的，就如奸淫、污秽、邪荡、

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

[20] 拜偶像、邪术、仇恨、争竞、忌恨、恼怒、结党、纷争、异端、

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

[21] 嫉妒、醉酒、荒宴等类。我从前告诉你们，现在又告诉你们，行这样事的人必不能承受神的国。

So there's a list of things to mortify. Then a list of the fruit of the Spirit:

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

[22] 圣灵所结的果子，就是仁爱、喜乐、和平、忍耐、恩慈、良善、信实、

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

[23] 温柔、节制。这样的事没有律法禁止。

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

[24] 凡属基督耶稣的人，是已经把肉体连肉体的邪情私欲同钉在十字架上了。

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

[25] 我们若是靠圣灵得生，就当靠圣灵行事。

That's not an exhaustive list, there are others. The natural man can't do any of these things. Only the Spirit of God living within us can do them. These are what we should nurture. These are our witness. We're in this world for one purpose: to grow fruit.

John 15:5

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

[5] 我是葡萄树，你们是枝子。常在我里面的，我也常在他里面，这人就多结果子。因为离了我，你们就不能作什么。

Notice in this list of fruit, love, peace, faith. The unregenerate man can't produce these things. They're all fruit of the Holy Spirit. So their love and peace is false.

Back to Colossians 3:

14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

[14] 在这一切之外，要存着爱心。爱心就是联络全德的。

Charity, or love is "the bond of perfectness." It's the greatest of the spiritual fruit.

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

[13] 如今常存的有信，有望，有爱，这三样，其中最大的是爱。

Romans 13:10

love is the fulfilling of the law. [10] 所以爱就完全了律法。

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

[15] 又要叫基督的平安在你们心里作主。你们也为此蒙召，归为一体。且要存感谢的心。

The peace of God should rule in our hearts, not our lusts and desires. That's what we're called to. And thankfulness. Thankfulness keeps us humble, because it makes us realise that we don't deserve anything at all in this world. In fact all we deserve is God's wrath.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

[16] 当用各样的智慧，把基督的道理，丰丰富富的存在心里，用诗章，颂词，灵歌，彼此教导，互相劝戒，心被恩感歌颂神。

We're to "set out affection on things above." To do this, we must let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly. We should teach and admonish one another from it. And we're to do it

“in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”
We should use God’s word frequently. And we should be a joyful, singing people.

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

无论作什么，或说话，或行事，都要奉主耶稣的名，借着 he 感谢父神。

So what is it to be a good witness to the world around us? How should we be different from everybody else? It’s not in outward appearance, in putting on an external show. But it’s the *“inner self,” “a gentle and quiet spirit,” “simplicity and godly sincerity.”* Here’s a summary of how to live. Let’s evangelise the world. But let’s make sure we do it as holy, godly, Christ-like people. Only then can our witness be truly effectual.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

[31] 所以你们或吃或喝，无论作什么，都要为荣耀神而行。