

w/b 3rd June 2018 Theme: Our New Identity in Christ

Colossians 3:10-14

¹⁰ *Have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him* ¹¹ *--a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all."*

¹² *And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;* ¹³ *bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.* ¹⁴ *And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.* Colossians 3:12-14 NASB

Many Christians totally misunderstand their life in Christ and therefore needlessly struggle with their Christian faith. In Colossians 3:10-14 Paul clarifies the theological understanding of our Christian life and how to live it affects our approach to life.

LAUNCH

When was the last time you replaced an old thing with something new?

What improvement occurred as a result of the new purchase?

What new thing are you experiencing in your life at the moment & why is it refreshing?

DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

1. What is the 'new self' spoken of in verse 3:10?
2. How might the new self differ from the old self? (3:5-9) How does it differ in your case?
3. Is it clear when the Christian believer gains this new self (3:10)?

Is it something that happens all at once or gradually?

4. What might the passage mean when it says the new self is being renewed? (3:10)
5. What is the new self growing more and more like? (3:10)

What might that final picture look like? What does that practically mean for you right now?

6. Does a Christian's growth depend upon one's education, background, culture, etc.?

Read verse 11 and explain your answer.

7. There is a very abstract phrase at the end of verse 11, “Christ is all, and in all.”

What might Paul be trying to communicate here?

8. What are the three ways Paul describes believers in verse 12? Identify and define each one.

Which means the most to you and why?

9. How does the ‘put on’ differ or act similarly to the put on from verse 8?

10. The rest of verses 11 and 12 identify eight character qualities. List and define each one.

11. Which are one or two character traits that you need to be more like Christ?

How would that kind of response improve your present circumstance?

Together pray for God’s strength in that area.

12. Why is it so hard to forgive others? Do you have a hard time forgiving? Explain.

13. Why is love considered “the perfect bond of unity?”

Paul J. Bucknell (Biblical Foundations for freedom)

*(Two Launch questions added and a couple of minor amendments to a few of the questions.
This study follows Desmond’s sermon on Sunday which addresses our new identity in Christ)*