

No more Chains Pt 2

Colossians 3:10-17

- Paul has just given the church a list of things that was a part of our inward wardrobe that revealed itself in our outward actions, and it wasn't pretty. **V5** shined the spotlight on our deeds, and how everything we did was motivated by one of two things either > **1st Greed-** covetousness and idolatry, which has to do with what I want, and how I want it, so if God's Word doesn't line up with my will, then it's not what I want so I do things my way.
- **2nd Sex-** fornication, evil desire, uncleanness, passion, this is all about self gratification, the passion Paul lists is a natural biblical desire for something that your willing to do unbiblical things to attain. God gave us a desire to have sex, to multiply, but He told us exactly how to do it in a biblically correct way, within the confines of marriage, people have rejected that and its led to disease, abortions, pornography, prostitution, the sex trade, in fact pornography is a billion dollar industry worldwide, and it doesn't enhance anyone's life but destroys their lives.
- **V9** these sins are primarily committed by what we say- the sins of the tongue, that James warns us about in James chapters 1 and 3. Jesus said in **Math 15:18-** that "**what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and they defile a man**". So since our words are a reflection of what's in our hearts, that means if Jesus is in our hearts, then Jesus is what will come out of our mouths. Which brings us to the second part of this section where Paul encourages the church "**to put off**" the deeds of the flesh and the sin of the tongue and "**to put on**" something better.

V10-17

- **V10-11** which is "**the new man**" as we take off "**the old man**" we must replace him with something far better which is "**the new man**" which scripture says has had his mind renewed in the knowledge of God, being made in His image, where there is neither respecter of person, culture, status, or ethnicity, for Christ is all and in all therefore only He is to be exalted and obeyed at all costs, not the flesh and everything it values or esteems. The old man is made in the image of the first Adam, so he needs to be "**put off**" and discarded, but the "**new man**" that we have now been created after His image is the second Adam, "**Jesus Christ**" He has been "**put on**"
- **V12-13** the new man is "**elect of God**" meaning God has chosen him to be something special in His plan, elect is a word that scares some people but it should bring comfort as it tells us we have been chosen by God to fulfill His will, and its nothing anyone can do about it. Where that will show the most that we've been chosen is in our relationships and how our approach has changed from the "**old man**" to "**the new man**". Tender Mercies, Kindness, Humility, each of these express themselves in relationships, and how we treat people and care about them.

- If something is “**tender**” that means its sensitive to the touch, Paul would have them now once the “**new man**” has replaced the “**old man**” be so sensitive that at the slightest touch they can feel another’s misery, pain, fear, and want to provide comfort and encouragement. This is where **Kindness** enters in, where you want to make people welcome not awkward, it’s all about concern, you care that others feel out of place and you want them to experience something better. **Humility** will help me to be longsuffering toward that individual, as I put their needs above my own, this will affect both my actions and my words toward others.
- When you add all these things together now I’m able to forgive a trespass against me, I’m able to be a peace keeper because I keep the peace in my own life. Whenever someone is ready to jump on another at the slightest offense it’s impossible for them to help anyone else keep the peace when they hear an offense has been done to them, which is why we must be careful who we seek counsel from depending upon how they deal with others in their own lives. As you see our main example is Jesus, Who forgave us even when we didn’t know we needed it > **Rom 5:8**.
- **V14-17** I like how Paul emphasizes “**but above all these things put on love**” just as an overcoat envelopes all the inner clothing, let love cover all the things previously mentioned > **tenderness, kindness, humility, forgiveness, reconciliation**, as great as all these things are, make sure they are all accompanied by love. For love is the fulfillment of all the things described in these passages, as love perfectly fulfills what God requires of us in relationships.
- **V15** when love is present peace is sure to follow, peace is a standard for discerning God’s will > **Philip 4:6-7**- Pau was sure to tell us that when anxiousness or doubt and fear is present then it’s hard to experience the peace of God, but when we let peace in then it not only removes fear and worry, but it gives us a discernment that goes beyond our understanding and begins to guard our hearts from the attacks of the enemy. Whenever I’m faced with a doubtful issue that needs to be decided, and by taking one course my peace maybe disturbed, whilst by another its maintained, I should always choose the path that makes for peace whether for myself or others.
- **V16-17** says let the Word of God be at home in our hearts and not at war as it once was, before Christ the Word of God was seen as an obstacle to overcome in order to do what we wanted, now it’s our compass, our guide, our comfort, to lead us down green pastures, and beside still waters, restoring our souls, keeping us in righteousness for God’s glory > **Ps 23**. For the Word teaches us, corrects us, using scriptures, hymns, songs, as it pours grace into our hearts, causing us to want our actions and our attitudes to be reflective of our gratitude toward God.