

JESUS' Demand: 'Put On' the New Man!

Colossians 3:9-17

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

Introduction: *"Every mom and dad knows that **little children** love to **PUT ON** costumes, play dress-up, go on fantastic adventures in super hero outfits...But its not just young children that indulge in **PUTTING ON** a new identity...**Gene Kelly**."*

NKJV - *"...you have put off the old man with his deeds, and **have put on the new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.*

*Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on** tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things **put on** love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 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. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."*

I. The "**New Man**" in Christ, **GENERALLY:** *"..you have put off the old man with his deeds, and **have put on the new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all."*

*"..**have put on the new man**.." - Greek "**endyo**" was commonly used for changing a set of clothes. We can almost picture a person taking off the old and putting on*

the new man in Jesus.

"..who is **renewed in knowledge** according to the image of Him who created him,.."

Allusion to **Genesis 1:27** - " So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Greek "**epignosis**" - This takes place as a believer comes to a personal, deep knowledge, experience, and fellowship with Christ. Its goal is to make believers like Him, for the "new self [was] created to be like God" (Eph. 4:24).

"This "new self" needs constant renewal or refreshing— it is being renewed (pres. tense), in order to keep it victorious over sin. Paul also expressed this idea of continual renewal." - **J. Waalvoord & R. Zuck**

2 Corinthians 4:16. - "Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day"

Romans 12:2 - being "transformed by the renewing of your mind"

Ephesians 4:23 ("to be made new in the attitude of your minds").

"Though the image of God was not erased by the Fall, only effaced, it was deeply corrupted and therefore needs to be repaired and renewed inside of us. Christians can become increasingly like the Lord as they **regularly allow the Holy Spirit to refresh, renew, and repair their new natures** - thru times of worship, prayer, and devotion."

"..where **there is neither** Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, **but Christ is all and in all.**"

The new man is part of a family, which **favors no race, nationality, class, culture or ethnicity.** It only

favours Jesus. Christianity was revolutionary because it broke down the barriers that separated people in Roman society.

*"In the arena of Carthage in A.D. 202 a profound impression was made on the spectators when the Roman matron **Perpetua stood hand-in-hand with her slave Felicitas**, as both women faced a common death for a common faith." (Bruce)*

• The "New Man" in Christ, SPECIFICALLY:

*Christ's **GENTLENESS** - "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.."*

Each one of the qualities mentioned in this passage **express themselves in relationships**. A significant measure of our Christian life is found simply in how we treat people and the quality of our relationships with them.

- *tender mercies* - Greek "**oiktirmos**" meaning compassion and pity felt in the bowels of emotions.
- If something is tender, it is sensitive to touch. *"The apostle wants us to feel the slightest touch of another's misery." (Clarke)*
- *kindness*, - Greek "**chrestotes**" meaning moral goodness & integrity.
*"The ancient writers defined **chrestotes** as the virtue of the man whose neighbour's good is as dear to him as his own. . . . It is used of wine which has grown mellow with age and lost its harshness. It is the word used when Jesus said, 'My yoke is easy.' (Matthew 11:30)." (Barclay)*
- *humility*, - **humility** (which was not considered a virtue among the ancient Greeks) is the "parent" of both meekness and longsuffering.

- *meekness*, - **Meekness** shows how humility will effect my actions towards others; I will not dominate, manipulate, or coerce for my own ends, even if I have the power and the ability.
- *longsuffering* - **Longsuffering** shows how humility will effect my reaction towards others; I will not become impatient, short, or filled with resentment towards the weaknesses and sins of others.
- ***"In the heart of a disciple there is a deep desire, and there is definite decision. The disciple of Christ, desires above all else, to be like his Master." - Dallas Willard***
- Christ's **FORGIVENESS** - *"..bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."*
 - *forgiving* - Greek "**charizomai**" meaning to graciously forgive someone.
 - When we consider the staggering debt Jesus forgave for us, and the comparative smallness of the debts others have toward us, it is base ingratitude for us to not forgive them (as in the parable Jesus spoke in Matthew 18:21-35).
 - *"The forgiveness we have received should enforce our duty of forgiving others." (Peake)*
 - Since Christians are **FORGIVEN** people, were commanded to be **FORGIVING** people as well!!!
(Matt 6:14,15)
- **What kind of forgiveness does Christ offer us?**
 - Christ's forgiveness holds back His anger a very long time when we sin against Him.***
 - Christ's forgiveness makes the first move towards us in forgiveness.***
 - Christ's forgiveness forgives often knowing***

that we will sin again, sometimes in the exact same way.

Christ's forgiveness is so complete and glorious that He grants adoption to those former offenders.

Christ's forgiveness bore all the penalty for the wrong we did against Him.

Christ's forgiveness keeps reaching out to man for reconciliation even when man refuses Him again and again.

Christ's forgiveness requires no probationary period to receive it.

Christ's forgiveness offers complete restoration and honor.

Once Christ's forgiveness is received, God puts His trust in us and invites us back to work with Him as co-laborers.

- ***"The beauty of believers consists in their resemblance to Jesus Christ." - Matthew Henry***

- ***Christ's LOVE - "But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection."***

put on love - Greek "agape" - Love is the summary of all the things described in this passage. **Love perfectly fulfills what God requires of us in relationships.**

***"Upon all, over all; as the outer garment envelopes all the clothing, so let charity or love invest and encompass all the rest...Let this, therefore, be as the upper garment..that invests the whole man."
(Clarke)***

"which is the bond of perfection." - Greek "syndesmos" - a bond, or ligament holding together the parts of the human body. (Matt 22:37-40)

"All the virtues listed in v. 12,13 are, on the highest level, manifestations of love; but love is larger than

any one of them, indeed, larger than all of them combined." (Vaughan)

"The other virtues, pursued without love, become distorted and unbalanced." (Wright)

- ***"The true Christian is one who knows God's power working in himself, and finds his true joy, to have the very life of God flow into him, and through him, and out from him to those around."***
- Andrew Murray

- Christ's PEACE - *"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."*

- *let the **peace of God rule** in your hearts - Greek "**brabeuō**" meaning to control, determine, rule, arbitrate, act as judge, to act as an umpire.*
- The peace of God should characterize the community of God's people, and that peace is a **standard for discerning God's will.**

- *"Whenever there is a doubtful issue to be decided, and by one course your peace may be disturbed, whilst by another it may be maintained, choose the things that make for peace, whether for yourselves or others. Let God's peace act as **umpire.**" (Meyer)*

- *"Let the peace of Christ judge, decide, and govern in your hearts, **as the judge** does in the Olympic contests." (Clarke)*

- Not just **INDIVIDUALLY**, but also **CORPORATELY** allow God's peace to judge a situation.

- Christ's WORD - *"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."*

- *Let the word of Christ **dwell in you** - "There appears to be here an allusion to **the Shechinah**, or symbol of the Divine presence, which dwelt in the tabernacle and first temple." (Clarke)*

***richly in all wisdom** - In deep abundance and successful application.*

***teaching** - Instructing in BELIEFS.*

*and **admonishing** one another. - Counseling in BEHAVIOR.*

- *in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing with grace** in your hearts to the Lord - This variety suggests that **God delights in creative, spontaneous worship**.*

"The word of Christ is to dwell in them so richly that it finds spontaneous expression in spiritual song in the Christian church or in the home." (Peake)

- *Christ's **HONOR** - And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."*

*"...do all **in the name** of the Lord Jesus..."*

*"Your Great Name" - Natalie Grant "Lost are saved; find their way; **at the sound of your great Name** ** All condemned; feel no shame, **at the sound of your great Name** ** Every fear; has no place; **at the sound of your great Name** ** The enemy; he has to leave; **at the sound of your great Name** All the weak; find their strength; Hungry souls; receive grace; The fatherless; they find their rest; Sick are healed; and the dead are raised; **at the sound of your great Name** Jesus, Worthy is*

*the Lamb that was slain for us, Son of God and Man; You are high and lifted up; that all the world will **praise your great Name!**"*

- "...do all **in the name** of the Lord Jesus..." - Means to LIVE and BEHAVE in the character & nature of Jesus, in all that you do. YOU are his human ambassador upon the earth!! (2 Cor 5:20)

- ***"There is only one true Church, and one true Faith, and if we want to represent it to our generation, and pass it on to the next generation, we must live in a manner worthy of Christ and of His calling on our lives and families." - Richard Phillips***

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- 1 Are you intentionally and regularly renewing your 'NEW MAN' thru times of devotion, prayer, and worship? Do you consistently feed your spirit?
- 2 Do you ask Jesus to give you His kindness and His gentleness of character in your relationships?
- 3 Is there someone that you need to forgive today..or request forgiveness?
- 4 Are you asking for the Lord to cover and wrap you in his Agape love, so that you can effectively love others like Jesus?
- 5 Do you allow the peace of God to help you in determining God's will for your life? Do you use it as a guiding principle in maintaining relationships?
- 6 Do Christ's Words dwell in you richly and deeply? Do you teach those around you when appropriate? Counsel them from Scripture?

Does the way you live your public life honor Jesus Christ? Do you faithfully represent the character and life of Christ to the world around you?