

# The Supremacy of Christ

## A Study of Colossians

Week 07: Living Faith (Part 2) - Exchanging Old Self for New Self

### Scripture

Colossians 3:5-17

### Key Points (Where We Are in History)

- Paul wrote to the Colossian Church, while he was under house arrest in Rome
- They had never met in person, but Paul wrote in response to the report of Epaphras (their pastor)
- The church was facing pressure to *mix religious systems*
- Paul wrote with the goal of showing Christ's supremacy over all things
- Colossians (doctrine); Colossians 3-4 (practical outworking in our daily lives)

### Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)

*Last week...*

- Seek things above; Set your mind on things above (orient around the heart of God)
- Our old self has died, and our new self is alive to live in Christ

**Genesis 1:26 (ESV)** God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

**Genesis 5:3 (ESV)** Adam...fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image...

**Romans 6:6 (ESV)** ...our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

Paul will talk about what it looks like to put to death the old life in favor of new life.

### Information (What They Need to Know)

Paul divides his teaching into two simple commands: put off old self/put on new self.

### Put Off the Old Self

**Colossians 3:5 (ESV)** Put to death therefore what is earthly in you...

### Sexual Sins of the Old Self

**Colossians 3:5 (ESV)** Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

- Sexual Immorality (sexual activity outside of marriage)
- Impurity (sexual thoughts and plans)
- Passion (uncontrollable lust)

- Evil Desire (unhealthy craving; obsession)
- Covetousness, which is idolatry (desire to have more, especially that which is forbidden; never satisfied – may relate to sexual sins)

**Colossians 3:6 (ESV)** On account of these the wrath of God is coming. **7** In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

**1 Corinthians 6:18 (ESV)** Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

“...sexual sin destroys a person like no other, because it is so intimate and entangling, corrupting on the deepest human level. But Paul is probably alluding to venereal disease, prevalent and devastating in his day and today. No sin has greater potential to destroy the body...” – John MacArthur

### ***Relational Sins of the Old Self***

**Colossians 3:8 (ESV)** But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another...

- Anger (deep-seated bitterness or hatred; simmering irritation)
- Wrath (uncontrolled outbursts; fits of anger)
- Malice (an underlying desire for others to fail)
- Slander (hateful words meant to harm or destroy others)
- Obscene talk from your mouth (vulgar or filthy words)
- Lying to one another (not telling the truth; telling half-truth; purposefully leaving out information for personal gain or protection of self; being someone you're not)

### **Put On the New Self**

**Colossians 3:9 (ESV)** ...seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. **12** Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved...

“A qualitative change of identity has already occurred in the lives of believers. It now only remains for them to bring their behavior into line with their new identity. *Being renewed* indicates that the transformation of Christians is an ongoing process.” – Bible Knowledge Commentary

## ***Characteristics of the New Self***

**Colossians 3:12 (ESV)** Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

- Compassionate Hearts (care for those suffering)
- Kindness (generous actions toward others)
- Humility (the refusal to exalt self)
- Meekness (refusing to dominate, manipulate, or coerce for my own benefit)
- Patience (the ability to restrain when irritated)
- Bearing with one another (patience with immaturity)
- Forgiveness (not holding someone's wrongdoing against them)
- Love (compassion, care, and enjoyment of fellowship with others)
- Peace of Christ ruling in your hearts (security and rest in the person and work of Christ)

## **Application (What They Need to Do)**

**How do we trade the old man for the new man? Being filled with the Spirit (control and appetite) – mentioned in Galatians, Ephesians, and Colossians**

**Colossians 3:16 (ESV)** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus...

**Ephesians 5:18 (NLT)** Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, **19** singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts.