

## Put Off-Put On

Colossians 3 (ESV)

*1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

How have we died (v. 3) and have been raised with Christ (v. 1)? Hint: see Chapter 2:12.

What does it mean to set our minds on things above, not on earthly things?

Would life look different if we did?

Does this mean we shouldn't concern ourselves with the realities and issues of this world?

What is our hope and destination (v. 4)?

*5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 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, 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. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.*

How can we put to death what is earthly in us (v. 5)? What happens when we don't?

How do these sins affect our relationships with God and others?

What does it mean to be renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator (v. 10)?

(See Rom. 12:2, Eph. 4:24, Titus 3:5-7).

Why did Paul list these different groups of people? What is the common denominator?

(Scythians were thought to be the most barbaric of the barbarians)

*12 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. 16 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, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

How do we put on these virtuous qualities (v. 1)? Does v. 16 help in doing this?

These qualities appear very similar to fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

How can putting on these virtues help in putting off the sins listed in vs. 5-9?

Why is forgiveness so important and what happens when we don't forgive?

What does love have to do with it and why is it important (v. 14)?

How do these virtues influence our relationship with God and others?

How does putting off the old self and putting on the new self affect our peace with Christ?

How would following v. 17 transform our lives?

*18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. 22 Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. 25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. 4:1 Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.*

How do these verses relate to the previous passages of putting off and putting on?

What happens when we "work heartily" for the Lord and not for men (v. 23)? Can it change our attitude about work?

What does it mean that we will receive an inheritance as our reward (v. 24)? What kind of inheritance is it?