

17. Learning to Put On the New Man

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to put off the deeds of the old man. We saw that those deeds actually include actions, attitudes and the words that come from those attitudes. We were in bondage to sin until the day that we placed our faith in Christ. At that very moment, the bondage to sin was broken. We are now free to choose to sin or choose to practice righteousness. It all depends on whether we are yielding ourselves to sin or yielding ourselves to righteousness. Most of us did not understand that we had a choice at the time of our salvation. In our topic today, we want to learn how to put on the new man so that we can experience joy in our own lives and help our children learn to experience the joy of salvation in their lives.

In Colossians 3:10-11 we read, “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.” At the moment that we placed our faith in Christ, our old man was crucified with Christ as we saw in our last topic. Here, we see that our new man is now alive because we are in Christ. Christ told Nicodemus in John 3:6-7, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.”” We received physical life at the time that we experienced physical birth. In the same way, we receive spiritual life at the moment that we are born of the Holy Spirit. As a result, we are told to put on the new man.

We see that the new man is renewed in knowledge. The word that is translated “renewed” means *to be changed into a new kind of life instead of the old sinful life*. The only other place where this word is used in the New Testament is in 2 Corinthians 4:16 where we read, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day.” Here, we see that our inward man, which includes our soul and spirit, is being renewed day by day. This happens as our minds are being transformed. Romans 12:2 says, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Christ is transforming our lives as our thoughts, attitudes and actions are becoming more like those of Christ.

As a part of this process, we see that Christ changes our relationships to one another in the body of Christ. As Jews and Greeks (Gentiles), we become one body in Christ. Ephesians 3:6 says, “That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.” In the body of Christ, there is no distinction between those who are circumcised and those who are not circumcised. The word “barbarian” was developed by the Greeks to speak about those who lacked Greek education and culture. The Scythians were considered the most brutal people of all those who were called barbarians. Christ changed the relationship between these groups and also made them one in Christ. Christ also breaks down the barriers between those who are slaves and those who are free. We are all one in Christ and He is sufficient for all.

Colossians 3:12-14 says, “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.” We also see three things that God has done for all Christians. First, we are the elect or chosen ones of God. Second, God has made us holy and without sin because all of our sins were paid for by Christ on the cross. Third, God calls us His beloved. 1 John 3:1 says, “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.” Because God did these three things for us when He made us a new man, He now calls us to develop the attitudes that go along with such a wonderful calling.

From the time of physical birth, we began to grow physically. In the same way, from the time of spiritual birth, we are to grow spiritually. We have been given a new nature that makes it possible for us to put on the attitudes of Christ as we yield our human spirit to the Holy Spirit. We are to put on tender mercies or a heart of compassion. In Matthew 9:36 we read, “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” We are to develop that same compassion for one another and for those who do not yet know Christ.

Next, we are told to put on kindness. In Galatians 5:22-23 we read, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” Here, we see that kindness is one of the nine things that are listed as the fruit of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit bears this fruit in our lives as we yield to Him. As a result, as a Christian learns to walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit, his or her life will begin to bear the fruit of the Spirit. We are also to put on humility which means to have a humble opinion of self. This word is translated lowliness of mind in Philippians 2:3 where we read, “*Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” Here, we see that we will place a greater value on others than self.

We are also told to put on meekness or gentleness which is another of the nine things that is listed under the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 quoted in the previous paragraph. Galatians 6:1 says, “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.” Here, we see that if another Christian is caught in an act of sin, we will seek to restore with an attitude of gentleness rather than condemn. Longsuffering or patience is also listed under the fruit of the Spirit. James 5:10 says, “My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.” We see that the Old Testament prophets give us an example of patience.

We are also to put on or learn to bear with one another. “To bear with” one another means to *suffer with another person or hold another person up*. Ephesians 4:2 says, “With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.” Here, we see that we will suffer with and hold up those who are weak or who struggle in their spiritual lives. We also see that we are to learn to forgive one another. We see how to apply this in our life when we have a quarrel or complaint against someone else that might cause us to blame them. Instead of blaming, we see that we are to forgive one another. Our supreme example of what it means to forgive is to

remember that Christ forgave us all of our sins and so we are to learn to follow His example.

However, most important of all, we see that we are to put on love. Christ said in John 13:34-35, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Here, we see that Christ commanded us to follow His example and put on love. It is this love of Christ that binds us together as Christians so that we can be one in Christ.

Colossians 3:15-17 says, “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.” When we put on the things mentioned in the previous verses, we see that the peace of God will rule in our hearts. Philippians 4:7 says, “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” This peace is so great that no one can fully understand it. God wants the whole body of Christ to both experience this peace and to learn to give thanks.

We are to let the Word of Christ dwell in us. The word that is translated “dwell” in this verse is also used in Romans 8:11 where we read, “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” We have the Holy Spirit living in our lives. We see here that we are also to have the Word of God dwelling abundantly in our lives. That combination will produce several results. We have the Holy Spirit to give us all wisdom from the Word. We will be teaching and admonishing one another and helping one another to grow. We will be sharing Psalms with one another. We will share hymns of praise to God. We will sing songs that express what the Lord has done in our lives.

In fact, putting on the attitudes mentioned in the previous verses will totally affect and change our lives. These attitudes will change the way that we speak. These attitudes will also change the way that we talk. Instead of saying and doing the things that we say and do to bring glory to self, we will make it our goal to do all that we do in the name of Christ so that our words and actions will bring glory to Him. At the same time, we will be giving thanks to the Father through Christ. As we practice these things in our lives, we give both our physical and our spiritual children an example to follow. They will see our lives changing as we continue to grow and they will realize that the Lord will change their lives also as they learn to put on the attitudes that are mentioned in these verses. Then they will also experience His peace. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to put on the new man.