



THE NEW MAN IN THE NEW NORMAL

Text: Colossians 3:1-17

1. Is Christ your life? - Colossians 3:1-4

If ye then be risen with Christ: The Christian life is built on the foundation of this truth. Because we know that Jesus is really raised from the dead, then our identification with Him becomes real. It is only because we **were raised with Christ** that we can **seek those things which are above**.

Set your affection... where is your affection? Listen, I love the things of this world as much as anybody. But the truth is my affection cannot be on things on the earth! My affection has to be on things above!

Christ who is our life. Sometimes we say, "Music is his life" or "Sports is his life" or "He lives for his work." Of the Christian it should be said, "Jesus Christ is his life."

2. Mortify Your Members - Colossians 3:5-7

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth: **Therefore** points back to our identification with the risen and enthroned Lord Jesus mentioned in Colossians 3:1-4. It is

because we understand this fact that we can **put to death** the things in our life that are contrary to our identity with Jesus.

There is no way that Jesus would walk in any of these sins, so if we identify with Him, we won't walk in them either.

For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: These sins invite **the wrath of God**. Because the world loves this kind of sinful lifestyle, they don't come in humility to Jesus. As they continue in these sins, it adds to their condemnation.

3. Put off the Old Man - Colossians 3:8-9

But now ye also put off all these: The sins Paul next lists (**anger, wrath**, and so forth) are regarded by many as "little" sins that Christians may overlook with little danger. Paul challenges us to **put off** the old man in every area of our lives.

Seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds: The more notorious sins of Colossians 3:5 are easily seen as incompatible with the nature of Jesus. But these "lesser" sins are also incompatible, so **put off** these sins also.

4. Put on the New Man. - Colossians 3:10-11

The phrase Paul used 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.

Which is renewed in knowledge: Because the new man is **renewed in knowledge**, he is hungry to know what *God* says in His Word.

After the image of him that created him: Paul is clearly alluding to Genesis 1:27, where it is said that God created Adam in His own image. Nevertheless, now that the first Adam is regarded as the **old man** who should be put off and discarded, because now

we are created after the **image** of the *second* Adam, Jesus Christ.

This work of the new creation not only deals with the old man and gives us the new man patterned after Jesus Christ; it also breaks down the barriers that separate people in society. Among new creation people it doesn't matter if one is **Greek** or **Jew** or **circumcised** or **uncircumcised** or a **Scythian** or a **slave** or a **free** man.

All those barriers are broken down.

5. The Life of the New Man. - Colossians 3:12-17

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.

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness: Love is the summary of all the things described in this passage.

Love perfectly fulfills what God requires of us in relationships.

Is the peace of God ruling your heart today? Is your affection on things above? One way to have peace is to be thankful. Thank God for what He is doing in your life and you will find peace.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs The new man walks in the word of God and in worship with other believers.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus: The new man lives his life, **all** his life, for Jesus. He will only seek to do the things that he *may* do **in the name of**

the Lord Jesus, and he will persevere in the difficulty of doing such things, knowing that he is doing them **in the name of the Lord Jesus**.

What a challenge for us today. In word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus. You are a child of God.



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Are you discouraged by the events of 2020?
2. Is it hard for you to set your affection on things above?
3. What is the difference between things above and things on the earth?
4. Is Jesus Christ your life? How can you make that a reality?
5. How do you mortify (put to death) your members (your fleshly nature) which are upon the earth?
6. Have you seen the old man of anger, wrath, malice, and so on in your own life or in our world recently?
7. What are characteristics of the new man that you need?
8. How do we put on the new man?
9. Looking back at the past few months, have you done all in the name of the Lord Jesus? Why or why not?