

LESSON 10

THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST, PART 2b; RESPONSE TO CHRIST

BEING RENEWED AFTER THE IMAGE OF CHRIST (3:10, 11)

The Colossians had become new in Christ. They had shed their old garments and “put on” new clothing. This change was to result in a different lifestyle. The person of the past, with uncontrolled passions, should no longer exist; the new person was to exercise self-control. Instead of allowing evil in their lives, the Colossians were to be proactive for good.

1. What must Christians do beyond simply putting off vices in order to put on a new self?
2. What was the purpose of the knowledge of the new self?
3. What kind of knowledge did the Colossians (and all believers) need?
4. Why might Paul have mentioned Greeks first in verse 11?
5. Who were the “barbarian and Scythian”?

PUTTING ON GODLY QUALITIES (3:12–14)

In response to Christ’s being “all, and in all,” the Colossians were to develop virtues in harmony with and befitting the all-sufficient Christ. Paul also could have been referring to his statement in verses 9 and 10 that they had put off the old self and put on the new self. Having done this, they were to create in their lives the new nature by taking on the virtues of the new person.

6. What qualifies a person to be a “chosen” one of God?
7. Into what three groups can we place the virtues listed in verses 12 and 13?

8. What Greek word is translated as “heart” in verse 12, and what does it mean?
9. What does the word “gentleness” mean in verse 12?
10. What is the meaning of the word translated “forgiving” in verse 13?
11. What are three major interpretations of the idea of love as the “perfect bond”?

RECEIVING HIS PEACE (3:15)

In 3:1–14 Paul encouraged the Colossians to look heavenward toward spiritual things because they had died with Christ to worldly interests. Because of this, they should put off certain fleshly desires and practices and put on the new godly qualities found in Christ. Following these instructions, Paul encouraged them to teach each other and to express appreciation to God by singing spiritual songs (3:15–17). All of this is to be done according to the will of Jesus Christ.

12. In what three relationships does the peace of Christ benefit a person?
13. For what reasons do Christians have to be especially thankful?

WORSHIPING HIM WITH SINGING (3:16)

The word of Christ was to dwell abundantly in these brethren, to have a welcome place in their minds. If the word of Christ dwelt in them and was expressed in their singing, it would become the source of wisdom for teaching and admonition.

14. What does the word translated “dwell” mean?
15. How is singing a bidirectional activity?
16. Why can we interpret the singing mentioned in this verse to be an allusion to worship in Christian assemblies rather than that of an individual or private meeting?
17. What are possible distinctions between the forms of songs in this verse?

DOING ALL IN HIS NAME

(3:17)

Not only were the Colossians to observe everything that Paul had mentioned to them, but “whatever [they did] in word or deed” was to be done in the name of Jesus. Christianity is an active religion. Christians are to *work* as well as *know* (Jas. 4:17), *act* as well as *believe* (Jas. 2:24), and *do* as well as *say* (Mt. 23:3). All people will be judged by their words (Mt. 12:37) and their deeds (Eccles. 12:14; Mt. 16:27; Rom. 2:6; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Pet. 1:17), not just by what they know and believe. For this reason, we must be careful about what we say and do.

18. What did Paul mean by the phrase “in the name of the Lord Jesus”?