



The Christian's New Clothes

Colossians 3:10-16

Sermon Outline

The Put off / Put on Principle

Put on What?

1. compassion and kindness (12)
2. humility and meekness (12)
3. patience (12) and tolerance (13)
4. forgiveness (13) and love (14)
5. peace and thankfulness (15)

Jesus often portrayed Christian growth in terms of plants, trees, branches, roots, and fruit. Let's think about what that tells us about Christian growth (4 s's):

1. Growth is slow – usually it is imperceptible if you're staring at it
2. Growth is often seasonal – there are spurts of growth (you look out one am, and big change)
3. Growth is a struggle – roots grow through thick, hard dirt to find moisture. A bud that will one day bloom and flower must first burst through the bark of a branch.
4. Growth is sure – if we're connected to Christ the trunk, if we're rooted in him, he will nourish us and produce fruit in us.

Why?

1. These are you!
2. You're being renewed (10)
3. You're of a new humanity (11)
4. Christ is all (11)
5. You're chosen, holy, and beloved (12)

How? → Word-Saturated Worship and Encouragement (16)

Introduction

This week's text speaks powerfully to how we are to live out our Christianity in community. Note the corporate nature of the theme, even as it encourages personal transformation. Do not allow the conversation to focus only on individual growth and development.

This week's text:

^{ESV} **Colossians 3:8-17** But now ^ayou must put them all away: ^banger, wrath, malice, ^cslander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹^aDo not lie to one another, seeing that ^byou have put off ^cthe old self¹ with its practices ¹⁰ and ^ahave put on ^bthe new self, ^cwhich is being renewed in

knowledge^d after the image of^e its creator. ¹¹ ^aHere there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave,¹ free; but Christ is^b all, and in all. ¹² ^aPut on then, as^b God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, ^ccompassionate hearts, ^dkindness, ^ehumility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ ^abearing with one another and, ^bif one has a complaint against another, ²forgiving each other; ^bas the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on^a love, which ^bbinds everything together in ^cperfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let ^athe peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called ^bin one body. And ^cbe thankful. ¹⁶ Let ^athe word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, ^bsinging psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, ^cwith thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And ^awhatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, ^bgiving thanks to God the Father through him.

Discussion 1: Already and Not Yet

- *In v 9-10 discern the “already” from the “not yet”*

[Note how you focus in on the *indicatives* here.

- have put on/off are both in Greek aorist to indicate that it has already taken place.
- being renewed is in the Greek present tense indicating a continuing action.

]

- *How are we being renewed?*

[By the Holy Spirit? yes. By the Word? yes. Review the “how” from the sermon.

“... being renewed **in knowledge**... Let the **word** of Christ dwell in you richly,...

Even in texts focused on personal and corporate sanctification, we still see the importance of the Word of God!

The Word is Illuminated by the Spirit

^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 2:12** Now ^awe have received not ^bthe spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this ^ain words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, ^binterpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are ^afolly to him, and ^bhe is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

^{ESV} **Psalms 119:18** Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

The Reformers, and particularly John Calvin, stressed the way the objective, written Word and the inner, supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit work together, the Holy Spirit illuminating the Word to God's people. The Word without the illumination of the Holy Spirit remains a closed book. - James M Boice

[It is] not a giving of new revelation, but a work within us that enables us to grasp and to love the revelation that is there before us in the biblical text as heard and read, and as explained by teachers and writers. - J. I. Packer

By the Power of the Holy Spirit

^{ESV} **2 Corinthians 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, ^abeholding ^bthe glory of the Lord, ¹ ^care being transformed into the same image ^dfrom one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

As Promised by Christ

^{ESV} **Acts 1:8** But **you will** receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, **and you will** be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- ***What about us or what part of us is being renewed?***

[How extensive is "self"? In Greek it is "man" (*anthropos*) in verse 9 and absent (added) in verse 10. "and have put on the new" What we see here is a complete overhaul! Heart, soul, mind, body ... put on the *new* man.]

Discussion 2: The New Self

- ***Renewed into What? --Characterize the new self***

^{ESV} **Galatians 5:22-23** But ^athe fruit of the Spirit is ^blove, joy, peace, patience, ^ckindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ ^agentleness, ^bself-control; ^cagainst such things there is no law.

^{ESV} **2 Peter 1:5-8** For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith ^awith virtue,¹ and virtue ^bwith knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control ^awith steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness ^awith brotherly affection, and brotherly affection ^bwith love. ⁸ For if these qualities¹ are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or ^aunfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ***Discuss the significance of the call to put on your new self being found in a "one another" context?***

Six Summary Theses on Relationships [Sermon Review]

1. Conflict is inevitable in a fallen world...and until Jesus returns it's inevitable in the church
2. No small part of God's Plan is to restore, to bring peace, to unite (Eph 2:14-19)
3. One day conflict will be no more. *Until then...*
4. Individualism and commitment-phobia are escapists' copouts
5. Conflict is opportunity (Ken Sande in *The Peacemaker*)
6. The Gospel is the constant basis and powerful motivation for pursuing peace

[Personal sanctification here is ***unto unity*** in the Body whose head is the preeminence of Christ! God takes the unity of his people seriously.]

- ***Get specific and personal --Also address these in a corporate sense***

- Are you building on the right foundation of Christ and the gospel?
- Do you see evidence that they are increasing in your heart and actions (even if in small increments)?
- Are you working them in with determination and discipline – putting to death malice, etc?
- Are you close enough to anyone to have to work at these things?
- Are you compartmentalizing parts of your life where you act like you think these rules don't apply?

- ***What's special about love?***

[Note the context--what does it accomplish? Note its priority.]

^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 13:13-14:1** So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. ^aPursue love, and ^bearnestly desire the ^cspiritual gifts, especially that you may ^dprophesy.

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- *The thankfulness emphasis (v. 15, 16, and 17)*

[It would be so easy to overlook this emphasis in a teaching so focused on “one another.” It is conspicuous by its presence here (in a positive exhortation) and in 2 Tim 3 (a description of last-days ungodliness).

^{ESV} **2 Timothy 3:2-5** For people will be ^alovers of self, ^blovers of money, ^cproud, ^carrogant, abusive, ^cdisobedient to their parents, **ungrateful**, unholy, ³ ^aheartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, ^bnot loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, ^aswollen with conceit, ^blovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but ^adenying its power. ^bAvoid such people.

- *Does thankfulness characterize your personal and corporate prayers?*
- *How about your attitude?*
- *What does lack of gratitude reveal about us?*
Pride...

Leaders--Lead out in repentance for our ungratefulness.

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Discussion 3: Abusing the texts. [optional]

[Occasionally we cover texts that can be, and often are, misused either in our out of the Body of Christ. From the pulpit we seek to faithfully present what the texts do teach. It is a timely opportunity to correct errors too, especially those found commonly among professing Christians.

- *Having “a peace about it”*

^{ESV} **Colossians 3:15a** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, ...

This is a favorite verse to reference when people are seeking guidance from God. It could be discerning truth or deciding what to do in specific situations.

- *What is this text really about?*

[It is about unity in the body brought about by “new self” transformation. The “your” is plural... peace between you.]

This verse has absolutely nothing to do with decision making, inner feelings or promptings, etc.

– “Christ is all”--Is this a pantheist proof text?

[This one is much less common, especially among professing Christians. You may encounter it when someone is trying to prove the Bible teaches Eastern religious ideas like pantheism¹. The Greek word *pas* is most commonly translated “all.” It is also translated several other ways. For example 45 times it is rendered “everything” in the NASB.]

^{ESV} **Colossians 3:11** ...but Christ is all, and in all.

Review the greater context. --The “thesis statement” of the letter:

^{ESV} **Colossians 1:15-20** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Can you understand why Christ is referred to (and sung about) as “*pas*”?

The image of the unseen God; Creator of all things
In heav’n above and earth below, the ultimate authority
He is before all things and in Him all things live and move and breathe.

Chorus:

**Christ is all. He is our Sovereign God, our King.
And with His blood He was the perfect offering.
For we who once were enemies, He now presents us clean.
Christ is all.**

The head of all the body, the Church, His spotless bride,
His love for us extends to death, in Him we safely hide.
One day we’ll all be gathered in and forever will abide.

So, we set our minds on things above, not on what we see.
Our lives are dead, we live in Him, the author of eternity.
When Christ who is our life appears, we will be with Him in glory.²

¹ pantheism - “God is everything and everything is God” is a concise summary. Popular expressions of it today are found in *Star Wars*, etc.

² *Christ is All* by Sarah Kelly. We sang it during the worship service where this sermon was given.

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- *How are we being renewed? (1Co 2:12-14; Psa 119:18; 2Co 3:18; Acts 1:8)*

- *What about us or what part of us is being renewed?*

Discussion 2: The New Self

- *Renewed into What? --Characterize the new self (Gal 5:22-23; 2Pe 1:5-8)*

- *Discuss the significance of the call to put on your new self being found in a "one another" context?*

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- Are you compartmentalizing parts of your life where you act like you think these rules don't apply?

- *What's special about love?* (1Co 13:13-14:1)

- *The thankfulness emphasis* (v. 15, 16, and 17 and 2Ti 3:2-5)
 - Does thankfulness characterize your personal and corporate prayers?

 - How about your attitude?

 - What does lack of gratitude reveal about us?

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Review Col 1:15-20--Can you understand why Christ is referred to (and sung about) as “pas”?

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 And with His blood He was the perfect offering.
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