

# THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

## Colossians 3:12-17

### Introduction:

1. 2:20-23 – *If we are dead to the world, why do we live like the world?*
2. 3:1-3 – *Maybe we fail to set our affection on things above.*
3. 3:5 – *Maybe we fail to put to death the flesh.*
4. 3:8, 10 – *Maybe we fail to clothe appropriately our spirits.*

### I. The Clothes of a Christian 3:12-14

- A. One must present himself appropriately when coming into the presence of God (Psalm 96:9 – “beauty of holiness” [“holy array” ASV]).
- B. The OT priests had to wear the proper clothing to serve in their office (Exodus 28:1-4).
- C. Every Christian is a priest of God; thus, we must clothe ourselves properly (1 Peter 2:5, 9).
- D. The New Life in Christ demands new clothing.
  1. **Election** – Remember that we are one of God’s chosen, called by His Gospel (cf. 2 Thes. 2:13-14)
  2. **Holiness** – Remain set apart for the service of God, sanctified (cf. Titus 2:11-14)
  3. **Beloved** – Remember in Christ, we are in the Beloved (cf. Jer. 31:3; Eph. 2:4-6)
  4. **Mercy** – We must have a heart of genuine compassion, pity and mercy toward others (Matt. 5:7; Phil. 1:7-8; 2:1-2; 1 John 3:17).
    - i. Remembering God’s grace (Luke 10:25-37)
    - ii. The Law / The Ark / The Mercy Seat
  5. **Kindness** – Show moral goodness to others (Acts 28:2; Eph. 2:7-9)
  6. **Humility** – Remember our unworthiness to protect against pride, arrogance and self-righteousness (cf. 1 Pet. 5:5-7; Phil. 2:3-5)
  7. **Meekness** – Strength under control of God’s will (cf. 2 Tim. 2:24-25)
  8. **Longsuffering** – Patience, forbearance, endurance with others (cf. 1 Pet. 3:20; 2 Pet. 3:9; Matt. 18:21-22)
  9. **Forbearance** – To endure, to put up with, to stand tall, to sustain (cf. 2 Thes. 1:4; 2 Tim. 4:2-3)
  10. **Forgiveness** (cf. Luke 7:40-43)
  11. **Love**
- E. Love is the bond of perfectness (perfection) – it binds all these things together, like the thread that keeps our clothes intact.

### II. The Heart of a Christian 3:15-16

- A. As we clothe ourselves with love, our hearts are to be ruled by peace.
  1. The word “rule” means “to be an umpire; to arbitrate; to govern, guide, direct or rule.”
    - a. Peace between God and man is possible (2 Cor. 5:19-21; Eph. 2:12-18; Isa. 26:3; John 14:27; 16:33; Rom. 5:1; 14:17).
    - b. This desire for peace with God should govern every decision we make (cf. Phil. 4:7).

- i. Why set affections on things above...
    - ii. Why put to death the flesh...
    - iii. Why wear the clothes of a Christian...
  - 2. It must lead to unity (cf. Eph. 4:1-6, 16).
    - a. Peace with God should lead to peace among men.
    - b. We even pray for our enemies (cf. Rom. 12:18-21).
  - 3. It must lead to gratitude (1:12; 2:7; Luke 17:16-18; Rom. 1:21; 2 Cor. 9:11; 1 Thes. 5:18; Heb. 13:15).
  - 4. It must lead to worship (cf. John 4:24).
- B. Our hearts are to be filled with God's Word.
  - 1. Psalm 119:11, 14, 24, 40, 54, 72, 96, 97, 99, 103, 165
  - 2. Must learn, remember, retain, memorize, and maintain
    - a. The word of Christ is the Gospel (1:5; John 17:17; Heb. 1:1-2).
    - b. The word "dwell" means "to inhabit; a constant habitation of the mind, taking up a fixed abode" (cf. 2 Tim. 1:5; Rom. 10:17).
    - c. The word "richly" means "in abundance; in its fullness."
  - 3. We must receive it with meekness (Jam. 1:21), rightly divide it (2 Tim. 2:15), and prove it (1 Thes. 5:21).
  - 4. Thus, one's heart is **perfected** (1 Peter 2:2).
  - 5. Thus, one's heart is **protected** (Psalm 119:11; Matt. 4:4, 7, 10).
  - 6. Thus, one's heart is **purposed** (Heb. 5:11-14).
  - 7. Thus, one's heart is **prepared** (Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17).
- C. Our hearts are to apply Truth with wisdom.
- D. Our hearts must long to worship.
  - 1. Worship is directed to God – *to the Lord*.
  - 2. Worship benefits the participants – *teaching and admonishing one another*.
  - 3. Worship is authorized and governed by God – *singing*.
  - 4. Worship must come from the heart – *grace in your hearts*.
- E. Do you have the heart of a Christian?

### III. The Will of a Christian 3:17

- A. Our will is submitted to the will and authority of God.
- B. We speak all things under His authority.
  - 1. 2 Timothy 2:15 – *rightly dividing*
  - 2. 2 Peter 3:16 – *not twisting*
  - 3. Galatians 1:6-9 – *not perverting*
  - 4. 1 Timothy 5:21 – *not prejudicing*
- C. We do all things under His authority.
  - a. Salvation (Acts 2:38)
  - b. Worship (John 4:24)
  - c. Work (John 4:34; 9:4)
  - d. *Before you make a decision...*
- D. We live with an attitude of gratitude.

#### Conclusion:

- 1. As a Christian, one has a new life in Christ.
- 2. We wear new clothes – the priestly clothes of proper attitudes and actions.
- 3. We have a new heart – ruled by peace and filled with the Word of God.
- 4. We have a new will – wholly submissive to the authority of God in all things.
- 5. Thus, we will have a new home – eternal in Heaven!