The Raised Life: Part 2

Colossians 3:8-17

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Sermon Summary

In Colossians 3:8-18, the sermon delves into the practical implications of living out one's faith. The central theme revolves around putting off the old self with its sinful practices and embracing the new self created in the image of Christ. Paul emphasizes the importance of clothing ourselves with qualities such as tender mercies, kindness, humility, and love, while rejecting anger, malice, blasphemy, and lies which stem from our old nature. The sermon highlights the power of our words, urging us to speak edifying words that reflect God's grace and truth. Paul underscores the significance of letting the peace of God rule in our hearts, cultivating a spirit of thankfulness and forgiveness towards others, as Christ has forgiven us. The primary application points focus on transforming our internal motivations and emotions, aligning our interactions with the gospel, and allowing our identity in Christ to shape our relationships in various spheres of life. Ultimately, the message calls for a tangible shift in our daily actions and attitudes, reflecting the transformative power of the gospel in our lives.

Sermon Content

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:8-18 (NKJV) - 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 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. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 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. 17 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.

Introduction:

As we move further toward the end of Colossians, we recognize that with every pen stroke, Paul becomes more and more practical. Paul flips the script with his writings in a religious world that focuses more on action than beliefs. Most progressive Christianity or religious ideologies will place action first... what you do matters more than what you believe; what you do determines what you believe. However, the way Paul writes is the opposite. What you believe determines what you do and the motivation for why you do it. Paul begins with the theological and ends with the practical.

Yes, there is a danger to focus so much on what you know or believe that you
never allow it to make it from your head to your heart to your hands. But there
is also a great danger to be so focused on your "good works" that you lose
your theological moorings and foundation in the gospel, and lose your identity
in Christ.

So, as we look at the close of chapter 3 over the next two weeks, we discover
that Paul now gets into the very detailed, day-to-day actions and relational
interactions. How should the gospel change our internal motivations and
emotions? How should the gospel form the way we treat one another? How
does our identity in Christ shape our families, marriages, and workplaces?

Last week, we examined the Raised Life. What does it mean for my life to be raised and hidden in Christ as I seek the things above? How do we navigate the two realities and realms competing for our attention, focus, and priorities? We discovered that living the raised life requires redirecting our pursuits and thoughts. We are to seek and set our minds on the things above, the invisible priorities of God's kingdom. Embracing the raised life in Christ also demands some killing; putting to death the former desires and sinful longings of our carnal nature.

☆ MAIN POINT

The raised life requires a new wardrobe

☐ SCRIPTURE

[Col 3:8-11 NKJV] 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Paul adds to the list he began earlier in the chapter regarding the impulses and practices of the carnal nature that still seeks to rear its ugly head within our lives. In

addition to fornication, uncleanness, and evil desires, he brings to light other things that tend to come from our hearts and out of our words and actions. Warren Wiersbe calls the first group "Sensual Sins" and the second group "Social sins."

The image he creates is that of a set of clothing. Paul tends to be drawn to the idea of clothing as an analogy. Be it describing the whole armor of God, our future heavenly body, the righteousness of Jesus, or a righteous life, he uses clothing as an example. We even see this example within the resurrection narrative of the Bible. When Jesus called Lazarus from the grave, the first thing he told his friends to do was to loosen him from his grave clothes. Why should the living be wearing the clothing of the dead? There's an interesting, small detail we often overlook in the resurrection of Jesus. When Peter and John entered the empty tomb, the Bible records that they saw Jesus' grave clothes folded in the tomb. The living savior wasn't about to walk around like a mummy! The living should wear the wardrobe of the living, and the same is true spiritually. Well, there was an old wardrobe that clothed us when we were apart from Christ:



Anger, wrath, and malice:

- All stem from the same root. Unrighteous anger is always rooted in selflove and preservation. Some people live and feed off anger and revenge, always consumed with what others have done to mess up their lives.
- Reacting with anger will always cause you to do something that will hurt someone else.

SCRIPTURE
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[Pro 16:32 NKJV] 32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

Psalm 37:8 NKJV - Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret--it only causes harm.

[Jas 1:19-20 NKJV] 19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

APPLICATION

There is a place for anger in the life of a Christian.

Ephesians 4:25-26 - 25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26 "In your anger do not sin." Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.

 In Jewish thought, the setting sun marked the end of a day. It symbolized closure, completion, even the end of opportunity. To "let the sun go down" could symbolically represent allowing something to die or pass unresolved.

Interpretation:

Paul may be warning us: Don't let things die in a state of unresolved anger.

We sometimes tend to wrongly attribute evil to some of the aspects of our emotional makeup. We need to understand something important about our emotions. Our emotions are not intrinsically evil, but they are contaminated and easily deceived because of the sin that's within us. When it comes to anger, Paul is talking about putting off our carnal anger, anger that leads to just revenge, wrath, and ill-intent toward others.

[Rom 12:17-19 NKJV] 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but

rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

- But there are times when anger is holy, righteous, and leads us to fiercely battle things that are evil. When we look at unrighteousness, hypocrisy, and evil ruining people's lives, there should be something that makes our spirits angry.
- Jesus formed whips and did table flips out of righteous anger when He saw His Father's house being contaminated with self-serving commerce. He was angry when he observed religious leaders burdening His people with self-righteous, unbearable rules and regulations while they walked in disobedience and benefited from their seats of leadership.
- We need to learn how to put off anger when it comes to the anger that is centered on self, and embrace the healthy anger we need to drive us to fight needed battles against the flesh, the devil, and the world.

☑ ILLUSTRATION

Samson's life is a tragic example of how unchecked anger can derail even a God-given calling. Though empowered by the Spirit, Samson repeatedly gave in to impulsive rage—killing out of revenge (Judges 15:7–8), destroying property in retaliation (Judges 15:4–5), and ultimately allowing his temper to govern his actions instead of God's wisdom. After being humiliated at his wedding, he lashed out by killing thirty Philistines and abandoning his bride. This act of fury led to a tragic chain reaction: his wife was given to another man, and when Samson retaliated by burning the Philistines' crops, they responded by **burning his wife and her father to death** (Judges 15:6). His uncontrolled anger not only brought disgrace and broken relationships, but also directly caused the death of those closest to him. While God still used

him, Samson's legacy is marked by how much more he *could have been* if his passion had been governed by obedience rather than revenge.

As he continues, he moves to the things that come out of our mouths.

• The tongue can be a wicked creature. It's been said that the tongue is the only member of our body that was designed with its own cage, and we should know when to keep it locked!

Blasphemies (plural) – curses against God and man. The word means reproachful speech, slander, or injurious speech to injure another's good name. This includes gossip and backbiting.

- Do you realize that when you speak evil about those created in God's image, you are at the same time insulting the name of God. When you lie about others, slander them, and spread misinformation with the intent to harm out of hatred, you misrepresent the God of heaven.
- Blasphemies can also entail thoughtless and reckless things said that impune the character of God. "What does God care? What's He ever done for me? I know better than the big guy upstairs!"

Filthy language – jokes, crude humor that makes one laugh at things God hates.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:29 (NKJV) - 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

APPLICATION

Could you imagine Jesus coming and telling you a dirty joke about the prostitute who washed His feet?

Could you imagine Jesus being kind to you and then overhearing him telling Peter how ugly and mean you are?

Lying - apparent lying is an accessory for the old wardrobe. Its designer? None else but the founder and originator of lies, the devil himself.

□ Pastor Josh □ Pastor Josh

There's no time we act more like the devil than when we try to deceive others and God in order to protect our self-interests.

☐ SCRIPTURE

John 8:44 (NKJV) "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."

APPLICATION

You see, God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. Those who walk in the light walk in a way where things are not hidden. Lies are designed to hide things and cover things up, leaving them in the untouched darkness. Many

times fear leads us to believe that the consequences of the truth will be far harder to live with than the consequences of a lie, but remember this:

"Truth brings immediate pain that leads to long-term health. A lie brings immediate relief that leads to long-term pain."

☑ ILLUSTRATION

Bishop Warren A. Candler, the early 20th century methodist preacher, was preaching about the lies of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5), and asked the congregation, "If God still struck people dead for lying, where would I be?" The congregation snickered a bit, but the smiles disappeared when the Bishop shouted, "I'd be right here—preaching to an empty church!"

Well, sadly, I would have to say that I'd probably be the most of you in the grave, but being in the pastoral ministry has given me a front row seat to seeing the devastation of deception and the health of truth, and it's something worth fighting for in your life.

SCRIPTURE

10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

 We possess the mind of Christ that renews our thoughts. We have the word of Christ that transforms our hearts. We experience the love of Christ that alters how we perceive others.

As we are renewed in Christ, we don't look at one another and see the
divisions based on race or social status; instead, we recognize that we all can
improve and grow as we strive to be like Jesus.

Finally, we are being transformed into the image of Christ as Paul tells us the new wardrobe that we are to clothe ourselves in.



Identify the following:

- Soldier
- Fireman
- Football player
- Doctor
- Christian???

☐ SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:12-13 (NKJV) 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

A Christian is not merely defined by what we look like. A Christian is most recognized by the attitude and characteristics of Christ that shine through them.

We are to rock a new wardrobe because now we are "The elect of God, holy and beloved." In other words, you are loved by God, set apart by God, and chosen by God through His grace unto salvation.

□ ILLUSTRATION

When a high school student gets a sports scholarship to a university, what do they wear at the signing? If they are going to Oklahoma, they probably don't come to the signing with a UCLA sweatshirt on! In the same way, we are on team Jesus. But Jesus wants more than a Christian t-shirt, the clothing that represents Him is our character, integrity, and the way we interact with and treat one another.

Tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering

- These are all characteristics of the character of Jesus.
 - Tender Mercies In other places, these words are translated of Jesus as
 "Bowels of Compassion." We usually use the heart in describing our deep
 feelings, but Eastern thought is that the deep emotions stem from the
 intestinal area. We may have described having a feeling "in the pit of our
 stomach." It means we are deeply moved by the plights and difficulties
 others are facing.
 - **Kindness** as a fruit of the Spirit, kindness indicates the tenor of our demeanor towards others. According to Ephesians 2 and Titus 3, we have been saved and find repentance because of God's kindness toward us.

☑ ILLUSTRATION

George Bernard Shaw once wrote a letter to Churchill: "Enclosed are two tickets to the opening night of my first play ... bring a friend (if you have one)." Churchill replied: "Dear Mr. Shaw, unfortunately I'll be unable to attend the opening night of your play due to a prior engagement. Please send me tickets for a second night (if you have one)."

- Certainly, there is a level of the boys having a good laugh with each other, but the reality is that people are not naturally kind, they are more interested in self-justifying or self-seeking.
- Christian kindness exists regardless of whether or not it gets one ahead or obtains a certain advantage.
- One commentator suggests that this word was used to describe wine that has grown mellow with age and has lost its harshness.

Kindness is not general niceness. It's not a full acceptance of everything, so as not to stir the pot. Kindness is the intentional action of generosity and understanding toward others.

• **Humility** - True humility is contrasted here with Paul's false humility in chapter 2. The humility of Christ was the willingness to step down from a place of entitlement to a place of service.

SP QUOTE — Kent Hughes

"Jesus was *not* suggesting a cringing, groveling servility; nor was he teaching his followers to think

poorly of themselves. Rather, he was teaching the necessity of the absence of self-exaltation."

• Unlike Christ, who is entitled to every divine privilege and willingly set them aside to become a servant, we don't deserve anything, yet often seek to place ourselves in a position of entitlement.

∏ QUOTE — Pastor Josh

Christ's humility elevated us to the heavenly places with Him. Our humility elevates others to become all that God designed them to be.

- Meekness Meekness is often described as strength under control. I like to
 expand that to mean my strength under God's control. The image used is of a
 warhorse eager to charge into battle, yet it waits until it feels the reins of its
 rider giving the command.
 - Meekness is not weakness, indifference, avoidance, or apathy. Its strength lies in knowing when to act because it is led and controlled by the Holy Spirit.
- Longsuffering To suffer long, often referred to as patience. The context of this word involves enduring in the face of injury or insult. When others judge you, persecute you, or test your love, you possess the fruit of God's Spirit to handle it by releasing it to the Lord and waiting on Him.

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[Psa 37:7-11 NKJV] - 7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret--it only causes harm. 9 For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. 10 For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it shall be no more. 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

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13 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.

Forgiveness is the expression of all the other attributes being put into place practically. And recognize that Paul doesn't suggest forgiveness as a preferable option. It is an imperative, a command. He also gives us the qualities of the forgiveness we are to offer, "As Christ forgave you."

But they don't deserve it! Guess what, neither did you.

- I'm not trying to justify or downplay any wrong that's been done to you by someone else, but friend, unforgiveness only eats away like a cancer in a life.
- Unforgiveness will not only destroy the other person, but it will destroy you.
- No one has ever had a more justifiable argument against another than God had against you. And yet, in Christ we find complete forgiveness, mercy, and grace.

 Remember, even if you don't have what it takes to forgive, forgiveness is ultimately because of Jesus and the cross. You can always go to the cross to find the strength to forgive.

• So whose job is it to identify a wrong done? The one who wronged, or the one who's been wronged?

☐ SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV) [23] "If therefore you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has anything against you, [24] leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

It would appear that God is not interested in our gifts of worship to Him if I am not forgiving and loving my brother or sister in Christ. How can I really celebrate and appreciate the gift of God's forgiveness in my own life if I can't forgive someone else? But also consider **Matthew 18:15:**

☐ SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:15 (ESV) [15] "If your brother sins against you, go, show him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained back your brother."

If you have a problem with someone, they might not know. It is your responsibility, in love, to gain a brother and approach that person, as difficult as that might be. *Motive - to win a brother, not to justify yourself or get your revenge.*

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[Col 3:14 NKJV] - 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Love is the glue that holds everything together. And we will start there next week. Sound good?

Discussion Questions

- 1. How does Paul's emphasis on "putting off" certain behaviors (anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language, lying) and "putting on" new virtues (tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, love) reflect the transformative power of the gospel in our lives?
- 2. In what ways can unresolved anger hinder our relationships and spiritual growth, and how can we discern between righteous and unrighteous anger in our lives?
- 3. How does the concept of clothing used as an analogy by Paul (putting off the old man and putting on the new man) challenge us to consider the external manifestations of our internal renewal in Christ?
- 4. Reflecting on the power of words, how can we guard our speech to align with Ephesians 4:29, ensuring that our words edify and impart grace to others rather than causing harm or spreading falsehoods?
- 5. Considering the destructive nature of lies and deception, how can we cultivate a commitment to truthfulness in our interactions with others, recognizing that honesty, though sometimes challenging, leads to longterm health and integrity?
- 6. How does the concept of the "new man renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him" guide us in our pursuit of spiritual

growth and transformation, especially in the context of our diverse relationships within the body of Christ?

Additional Resources

Small Group Guide

Use the discussion questions above to guide your small group conversation.

Personal Study

Take time to reflect on the questions and write down your thoughts.

Shared via SermonBuild

Create your own sermons with SermonBuild