

Old Self, New Self
Colossians 3:1-17

I. Introduction

II. Motivate Yourself! (1-4)

A. Paul begins, as per his normal routine, by explaining the motivation for why Christians ought to behave or not behave in certain ways.

1. He keys us in to the “eschatological reality” (i.e. the reality of Jesus’ return) as the motivation for us to do what he is about to instruct.

B. This reality manifests itself in three ways that bring holistic change to our lives:

1. We have been raised with Christ to new life (2nd Cor. 5:17)

2. Jesus has killed who we used to be, and we are delivered from the power of sin (Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6).

3. Jesus is coming again, and we will be glorified with Him!

C. The second of these three truths is especially important, because often we behave as if sinning is an eventuality, but it isn’t. (Rom. 6:14, 17-18)

1. Sin has NO POWER over you, except the power that you give it!

2. We will sin, because we have not been delivered from the presence of sin, but it has no dominion over us!

D. Our motivation to avoid sin and pursue righteousness is found in Jesus’ return.

III. Put off the Old Self (5-11)

A. Paul opens this passage with a call for us to put to death the things that belong to the old, sinful self.

B. His list of sins here encompasses the three big sectors of the human life:

1. Sexuality

2. Desires

3. Speech

C. Paul lumps all of these sins together because they all necessarily involve idolatry, placing something else apart from God on the throne.

1. Paul makes it clear that God punishes sin and His wrath comes on people who live this way, but we don’t have to anymore!

D. Then Paul ends with one sin that doesn’t fit in these categories: bigotry.

E. The point is clear, all people, regardless of how they sin, are welcome if they put that sin off.

IV. Put on the New Self (12-17)

A. There’s a richness in the way Paul now describes the people we can be in Christ!

B. Jesus is transforming us into a people who are selfless and put the needs of other before our own.

1. Sin is idolatry and puts me on the throne, but when I surrender to Jesus, he comes on the throne and I become less and less concerned about myself and more and more concerned about others.

C. This works not only on an individual level, but on a corporate level as well!

1. We begin to interact differently with one another because the Spirit unites us all.

D. We harness the power of praise and worship to help one another and offer ourselves to God!

E. The application: *Do everything with an eye to His glory (John Calvin).*

F. So, what do you need to put off and put on this week?