

OUR PERTINENT RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

“THE PERSONALITY OF THE CHRISTIAN”

[June 15, 2008]

Text: Colossians 3: ¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your^a life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.^b ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. ¹

Key Text: Colossians 3: ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Purpose: I desire that we all see the exciting results of our regeneration in our individual lives and lifestyles.

Introduction: Because we are alive in Christ, we must seek the things that are above. And, because we died with Christ, we must put off the things that belong to the earthly life of past sin. The result is that we can become like Jesus Christ! God wants to renew us and make us into the image of His Son! ²

The definition of the word “regeneration”: new birth, reproduction, renewal, recreation, regeneration; hence renovation, regeneration, the production of a new life consecrated to God, a radical change of mind for the better. ³ Titus 3: ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. ⁴

- 1. Our Regeneration** [3: ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.] ⁵

^a Some manuscripts *our*

^b Some early manuscripts *coming on those who are disobedient*

¹ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Col 3:1-11

² Wiersbe, Warren W.: *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1996, c1989, S. Col 3:10

³ Ephesians Four Group: *Greek Dictionary*. electronic ed. : : , , S. 2

⁴ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Tit 3:3-7

⁵ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Col 3:10-11

A. The New Man [3: ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator]

1. The Spiritual Action -- “and have put on the new self” – aorist tense verb – a once and for all action.

a. “put on – ενδυσασμενοι” - Verb, participle, nominative, plural, masculine, aorist, middle – The grammatical middle voice that signifies that the subject of the verb is being affected by its own action or is acting upon itself. ⁶ At a point in time, the subject personally put on the new self. This took place at one’s conversion. To change into something new and different, implying superiority; to be changed into a new kind of life as opposed to the former corrupt state This is a *once and for all action never to be repeated again*.

b. “the new self – νεον – new” - Adjective, accusative, singular, masculine. The word means one recently born, young and youthful! The *old self* was worn out and worse for wear! Only the grace of God can produce such a change in an individual! We are focusing upon a *new quality and freshness* in one’s life.

2. The Mental Action -- “which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator”

a. “which is being renewed” that is the *new man*?

1) “renewed – ανακαινουμενον” -- Verb, participle, accusative, singular, masculine, present, passive.

2) This refers to that *new strength and vigor* that the Lord provides for those that are saved, have been regenerated. This is a part of the *growth process* in the *new life* of the believer.

3) Every believer needs this continual renewing in order to overcome the sin nature within.

4) 2 Corinthians 4:16 -18 -- ¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. ⁷

5) Ephesians 4: 20-24 -- 20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. ²¹ Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. ⁸

b. “in knowledge in the image of its Creator”

1) “in knowledge – επι γνωσιν” -- on towards – the goal being *knowledge* – επιγνωσιν – this involves the learning process and growing intimacy with the Creator. This produces the image of the Creator within us.

⁶Heiser, Michael S.: *Glossary of Morpho-Syntactic Database Terminology*. Logos Bible Software, 2005; 2005, middle

⁷ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. 2 Co 4:16-18

⁸ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Eph 4:20-24

- 2) “in the image of its Creator – εικονα του κτισαντο □ αυτον” –
- a) “in the image – εικονα” -- the likeness of the Person of Christ in mind, character and lifestyle. We want to see the *likeness, the image of Christ* o be seen, magnified in us!
 - b) “of its Creator –κτισαντο □” -- Verb-Aorist Active Participle-Genitive Singular Masculine - would be a reference to Christ.
 - c) Note Genesis 1: ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth,^b and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ⁱ
 - d) Note Ephesians 4: ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. ⁱⁱ
 - e) God’s purpose for us is that we be “conformed to the image of His Son” (Rom. 8: ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.) ⁹
 - f)). This refers to character, the spiritual quality of the inner man. When we see Jesus Christ, we shall be like Him and have glorified bodies (1 John 3:1–3 -- How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears,^a we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. ¹⁰ ; but while we are waiting for Him to return, we can become like Him and share His holy image. This is a process of constant renewing as the Spirit of God uses the Word of God. ¹¹

Illustration: Pic of Father and children

Principles to Live by:

1. We were *formed* in God’s image, and *deformed* from God’s image by sin. But through Jesus Christ, we can be *transformed* into God’s image!
 - a. We must be renewed in the spirit of our minds (Eph. 4: ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds ;))
 - b. As we grow in knowledge of the Word of God, we will be transformed by the Spirit of God to share in the glorious image of God (2 Cor. 3: ¹⁸ And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect^a the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.)
 - c. God transforms us by the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12: ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be

^b Hebrew; Syriac *all the wild animals*

⁹ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ro 8:29-30

^a Or *when it is made known*

¹⁰ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. 1 Jn 3:1-3

¹¹ Wiersbe, Warren W.: *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1996, c1989, S. Col 3:10

^a Or *contemplate*

able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.¹² and this involves the study of God’s Word.

d. It is the truth that sets us free from the old life (John 8:31–32 - ³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”¹³ ⁱⁱⁱ

2. This is a *continual process, progressive sanctification*, whereby we are *becoming more and more like Jesus*, looking to our final conformation to Him in our glorification. 1 John 3: ²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears,^a we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.^{iv}

Transitional Sentence: Oh the thrill of knowing God and Jesus more intimately! The Church, the Body of Christ, is an exciting place to be today as we are growing and becoming more like Jesus in our minds and lifestyles.

B. The Realization within the Mind of the New Man [3: ¹¹Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.]

1. Distinctions Negated -- “Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free”

- a. In Christ all *racial* distinctions are removed – Greek or Jew.
- b. In Christ all *religious* distinctions are removed – circumcised or uncircumcised
- c. In Christ all *cultural* distinctions are removed – barbarian, Scythian, slave or free

2. The Foundation for the Distinctions being Negated -- “but Christ is all, and is in all”.

a. “but” – forms a transition into a more important matter.

b. “Christ is all, and is in all” – the Greek text reads “which all and in all Christ”!

The word “all” is an adjective, nominative, plural, neuter. The neuter gender stresses that Christ is the Creator, the Source and Sustainer of all of natural creation. He is the Sovereign over all creation.

c. Therefore, all barriers are destroyed in Christ, and all believers are truly “created equal.” So it is to be expected that each believer—regardless of his nationality, former religion, culture, or economic standing—should do away with his former sinful practices and should live in accord with his “new self.”^v

d. “Christ is all and in all” is the emphasis in this letter. “That in all things He might have the preeminence” (Col. 1:¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.]^{vi}

¹² *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ro 12:2

¹³ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Jn 8:31-32

Illustration: Pics of Grace folks.

Principles to Live by:

1. Because we are complete in Christ, we can look beyond the earthly differences that separate people and enjoy a spiritual unity in the Lord. The Gnostic false teachers, like the false teachers today, tried to rob God’s people of the richness of their oneness in Christ. Beware!

2. We are alive in Christ; therefore, we should seek the heavenly. We are dead in Christ; therefore, we should slay the earthly. We can become like Christ; therefore, we must strengthen the Christly and permit the Spirit to renew our minds, making us more into the image of God. ^{vii}

Transitional Sentence: Oh the thrill of knowing God and Jesus more intimately! The Church, the Body of Christ, is an exciting place to be today as we are growing and becoming more like Jesus in our minds and lifestyles.

**HOW CAN THIS PASSAGE HELP “ME” IN MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH? ... TO HELP ME TO BE
GODLY DAD?**

1. We were *formed* in God’s image, and *deformed* from God’s image by sin. But through Jesus Christ, we can be *transformed* into God’s image!
2. How? One must receive Jesus as his/her personal Lord and Saviour. “A, B, and C’s of salvation.
3. This is a *continual process, progressive sanctification*, whereby we are *becoming more and more like Jesus*, looking to our final conformation to Him in our glorification. 1 John 3: ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears,^a we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ^{viii}
4. Because we are complete in Christ, we can look beyond the earthly differences that separate people and enjoy a spiritual unity in the Lord. The Gnostic false teachers, like the false teachers today, tried to rob God’s people of the richness of their oneness in Christ. Beware!
5. We are alive in Christ; therefore, we should seek the heavenly.

ⁱ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ge 1:26-27

ⁱⁱ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Eph 4:23-24

ⁱⁱⁱ Wiersbe, Warren W.: *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1996, c1989, S. Col 3:10

^a Or *when it is made known*

^{iv} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. 1 Jn 3:2

^v Walvoord, John F. ; Zuck, Roy B. ; Dallas Theological Seminary: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL : Victor Books, 1983-c1985, S. 2:681

^{vi} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Col 1:15-20

^{vii}Wiersbe, Warren W.: *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1996, c1989, S. Col 3:10

^a Or *when it is made known*

^{viii} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. 1 Jn 3:2