

THE OLD YOU VERSUS THE NEW YOU

Colossians 3:1-17

Introduction: Have you ever wondered why your life got more complicated after you became a Christian? Do you ever experience an inner struggle that feels like a mental tug of war between two opposite moral poles? You are not alone...the Christian life is a battlefield. Today's message will unveil the inner battle and give you biblical strategies for winning.

The battle is inside of you - *Galatians 5:17, For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

The new you described - *Colossians 3:1-4, 10-17*

1. Our glorious new life...our permanent identity is based on Christ's resurrection life. **Vs. 1**
2. The complete transformation of our identity in Christ is not yet fully visible. **Vs. 3**
3. The glorious grand reveal will tell the whole story of who we are. **Vs. 4**
4. Your new identity looks like Jesus, the Author and Creator of your new life, who gave it to you. **Vs. 10**
5. Our new identity disregards the negative labels that people put on other people. **Vs. 11**
6. Our new identity has the inner character of Christ. **Vs. 12**
7. Our new identity builds godly relationships with others. **Vs. 13-15**
8. Our new identity desires to internalize the Word of God and worships God from the heart. **Vs. 16**
9. Our new identity gives all the glory to God. **Vs. 17**

The old you described - Vs. 5-9

1. Character sins related to our old nature - **Vs. 5**

2. Relationship sins connected to our old nature - **Vs. 8-9**

Winning the internal war...to maximize our new life in Christ we are told to do these three positive things and these two negative things:

1. ***Direct*** your thought life to the highest level. ***Seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Vs. 1***

2. ***Discipline*** your mind to focus on God's great plans for you not the world's destructive plans for you. ***Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. Vs. 2***

3. ***Daily*** live out of your new identity in Christ. ***Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Vs. 10***

4. ***Deal*** a death blow to the old man. ***Put to death therefore what is earthly in you. Vs. 5***

5. ***Dismiss*** the old ways of thought and action as not the real you. ***But now you must put them all away. Vs. 8***

Conclusion: Christians who do not want to be trapped and held down by old nature must take drastic action to free themselves from the remnants of that old nature. ***Put to death, therefore whatever belongs to your earthly nature.***

There were two reasons why some freed people continued to live in slavery.

- First, they do not know about it.
- Second, they do not believe it.

"It is important and right that all privileges of the law be ours, but it is vastly more important that we be prepared for the exercise of those privileges."—Booker T. Washington, educator, abolitionist, inventor, ex-slave

Allow me to borrow from Booker T. Washington to make an eternal application: *It is important for you to understand the privileges of your new life in Christ; but it is vastly more important that you exercise those privileges.*