COMPLETE IN CHRIST
“Off With the Old, On With the New”
Colossians 3:5-14
Pastor John Miller

Introduction: “I hate to pull weeds…..but if…”

* Paul wants our lives to produce beautiful fruit! “To live the abundant life.”

* He told us to do three things:

  1. “Seek” - Heavenly things (v1)
  2. “Think” – Heavenly things (v2)
  3. “Believe” – Heavenly things (vv3-4)

* Using the metaphor of “taking off the old soiled garments of the old life”, and “putting on the new garments of our resurrected life”, Paul tells us what to “put-off” and what to “put-on”.

I. Put Off the Old Vices (vv5-9)

* (v5) “Mortify”, literally “to put to death”. It’s an imperative stressing determination and decisive action.

* Remember - “We were crucified with Christ!” (v3)

* “Therefore” – We are to make it real in our experience!

A. What are we to “put to death”?
   Answer: (v5) “Your members which are upon the earth.”
   1. What does that mean?
      Answer: It’s seen in the list of sins Paul gives us to put to death!
      Illustration: Jesus said: “If your right eye…”
      Illustration: In England many years ago…

B. Paul names five sexual sins in Verse 5 that Christians must put to death!
   1. “Fornication” – Greek = “Porneian”. It’s a general word for sexual immorality.
      a. In Paul’s day and today! I Thessalonians 4:3
   2. “Uncleanness” – Its moral impurity in all forms.
      a. It covers all filthy, suggestive thoughts and humor.
         J.B. Phillips: “Dirty-mindedness”
         Illustration: Pornographic literature or movies, etc.
   a. It’s the desire to use another for one’s own selfish, sensual gratification.
   b. It’s both heterosexual and homosexual in character.
4. “Evil or wicked desire”
   a. Its desire used out of God’s will and plan.
   b. Only “in marriage” as God designed it.
5. “Covetousness” – Which is idolatry.
   a. Literally: “To have more.”
      Illustration: The 10th Commandment – “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour’s.”

* We live in a culture much like Paul’s.
* Sexual sin should not be found in Christian community!

* Paul gives us two reasons to put these sins to death:
   1. They bring God’s wrath. (v6)
      a. Literally, “is coming” (sow and reap).
   2. They were part of the “old life”. (v7)

C. Paul names three attitude sins in Verse 8 we must “put off” (like dirty clothes).
   1. Anger – A settled feeling of anger.
   2. Wrath – Or “rage”. It’s the “outburst”.
   3. Malice – You want to “hurt someone”.
      a. Its “ill-will” (sins of the Spirit).

D. Then Paul names three sins of speech in Verses 8-9.
   1. Blasphemy (v8) – Its “railing” or “slander” toward God or men.
   2. Filthy Communication – “Out of your mouth” (v8) (because it pours forth).
      a. Its “shameful speaking”.
         Weymouth – “Foul-mouth abuse”.
   3. Lying (v9) - It’s “not telling the truth”.
      a. It grieves the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of truth).
         i. “Lie not one to another” (v9).
            Why? Because you “put off” the old man with his deeds.
            Ephesians 4:25 – “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor; for we are members one of another.”
            Exodus 20:16 – “Thou shalt not lie” (the 9th Commandment),

* So, we “put off the old vices” (the negative).
II. **Put on the New Virtues** (vv10-14)

* Three new things:

A. The moment you were “Born Again”, you received a “New Nature”; called by Paul the “New Man” (v10).
   1. Our part is to “put off” the “old man” and “put on” the “new man”.
   2. Submission to the new nature brings spiritual victory!
      * Galatians 5:16 – “This I say then, walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh” (old man).
   3. This is “sanctification” (v10).
      a. Literally, “being renewed after the image of Him that created Him”
   4. We have a “New Nature” (v10).
      a. Put it on by submission to the Spirit!

B. We have a “New Family” (v11).
   * We were born into God’s family, the Church, and we have God as our Father!
   1. In God’s family, the Church, there is no:
      a. “Racial distinction”
         i. “Greek or Jew”, “circumcision nor “uncircumcision”.
      b. “Cultural distinction”.
         i. “Barbarian, Scynthian”.
      c. “Social distinction”
         i. “Bond nor free”.
   * Wow! How our world needs Jesus!

C. We have a “New Lifestyle” (vv12-14)

* When you receive a “New Nature”;
* And you are placed in a “New Family”;
* You then began to live a “New Life”!

1. (v12) - Paul’s threefold description of Believers:
   b. “Holy” – “Set apart”
   c. “Beloved” – “Loved”

D. How should we live and treat others?
1. “Bowels of Mercies” (v12)
   a. It’s “a heart of compassion”.
      * Illustration: The world before Christ and without Christ!
2. “Kindness” (v12)
   a. Its “sweetness of disposition”.
   b. It’s the fruit of the Holy Spirit!

3. “Humbleness of mind”
   a. Its not “thinking of self” – Philippians 2 – Jesus
      Its putting others first!

4. “Meekness” (v12)
   a. Its power under control; “gentleness”.

5. “Longsuffering” (v12)
   a. With people, literally, “wrath that is put far away”.

6. “Forbearance” (v13) – “Forbearing one another.”
   a. Its being tolerant of others who irritate you.

7. “Forgiveness” (v13) – “Forgiving one another”
   a. (v13) - ”If any man has a complaint against any, even as the Lord forgave you, so also do you.”
      i. Don’t use it against them in the future.
      ii. Don’t talk about it to others.
      iii. Don’t dwell on it yourself.

8. “Love” (v14)
   a. Above all; literally “on top of all”.
      Illustration – Putting on clothing. “A belt”.
   c. Put on love – Greek = “Agape”
      i. It’s the perfect bond or belt! It holds everything together!
   d. It’s the mark of a true Christian!
   e. Jesus said: “A new commandment I give unto you…. ”
CONCLUSION:

1. All these garments must be worn in community with others!
2. All these garments were perfectly worn by Christ.
3. All these garments are the fruit of the Spirit and come with our “New Birth”, bringing us a “New Nature”!

Salvation? Have you been “Born Again”?

Do you have a “New Nature”?

1. The Cross!
2. Your sin!
3. You must repent and believe!