

# Colossians

# Agree or Disagree?

1. Every person in Christ is a new creation.
2. Believers are to *act* like Jesus.
3. Believers are to *be* like Jesus.
4. Believers are not always like Jesus.
5. Believers choose to not be like Jesus.

# What Do You Think?

- What does it mean to be a new creation in Christ?
- In Christ, we are holy
  - Why do we sometimes fail at holiness?
  - Why do we still sin?

# Neil Anderson

- You have totally changed!
  - You just don't know who you are
  - 'the unwitting victim' of the flesh
  - *Cognitive Behavioral Therapy*
    - *Conditioning*: learn new habit patterns
    - Think: "I'm a saint, not a saved sinner"

# Watchman Nee

- You don't change at all!
  - You just haven't yielded yet
  - Christ lives His life through you
  - If you are trying, you are not yielding
  - You should command sins to leave because they don't come from new life in Christ

# The Apostle Paul

- You need to become what you are!
  - In Christ, you are holy (1:22)
  - In real life, not always
  - Reject the old and choose to live the new

# Colossians 1:9-10

“...we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects...”

# The Apostle Paul's Application

1. Off with the Old (3:5-9)
2. On with the New (3:10-17)



# The Apostle Paul's Application

## 1. Off with the Old (3:5-9)

- What do we do with our old sin nature?
  - Anderson: Ignore it?
  - Nee: Dismiss it?
  - Paul: KILL IT!

# 1. Off with the Old (3:5-9)

## A. Put the old to death (5)

- In Christ, you died to the old way of living life (2:20)
- In Christ, you were raised to a new way of living life (3:1)
- You are in transition

# 1. Off with the Old (3:5-9)

## A. Put the old to death (5)

- Sin starts in the heart (Mark 7:20-23)
- Simply avoiding the act is not good enough (Matt. 5:21-28)
- Simply avoiding the trigger doesn't work (Col. 2:21-23)

# N. T. Wright

“The old taboos put the wild animals of lust and hatred ... in cages: there they remain, alive and dangerous, a constant threat to their captor. Paul’s solution is more drastic: the animals are to be killed (3:5). The old method of holiness attacked the symptoms; the true method goes for the root.”

# 1. Off with the Old (3:5-9)

## A. Put the old to death (5)

- Recognize it
  - Evaluate your thoughts / temptations
    - James 1:13-15; 4:1-3
  - Take your thoughts captive
    - 2 Cor. 10:5-6

# 1. Off with the Old (3:5-9)

## A. Put the old to death (5)

- Reject it
  - You are no longer a slave (Rom. 6:6; 16-18)
  - Sin only brings death (Rom. 3:23; Gal. 6:8)
  - Not suppression or management
    - Weed whacker vs. shovel

# 1. Off with the Old (3:5-9)

## A. Put the old to death (5)

- Replace it
  - Slaves to righteousness (Rom. 6:15-19)
  - Set your mind on things above (Col. 3:1-4)
  - Think about the right things (Phil. 4:8)
  - Do the right things (Ephesians 4-5)

# 1. Off with the Old (3:5-9)

## A. Put the old to death (5)

- Immorality – all inappropriate sex
- Impurity – moral corruption (Rom. 1:24)
- Passion – uncontrolled selfishness
- Evil desire – corruption of good desires
- Greed – *to have more*; not good enough



# 1. Off with the Old (3:5-9)

## A. Put the old to death (5)

- The constant choice: the flesh or The Spirit?
  - By choosing one, you reject the other
    - Rom. 8:12-13; Gal. 5:16
  - Submit / sow to the Spirit (Gal. 6:7-9)
  - Walk in the Spirit (Col. 3:7; Gal. 5:16-26)

# Baker Commentary: *Romans*

“There is a paradox in this, however, for Paul recognizes that the old nature, though in principle put to death on the cross, lingers on in the life of the believer and can be overcome by the decisive will of the Christian who must choose to live according to the new nature, not the old.”

# 1. Off with the Old (3:5-9)

## B. Put the old away (8)

- *Lay aside; renounce; disarm* (2:15)
  - Attitudes / reactions / responses (8)
- *Having put off, like a dirty shirt* (9)
  - Lying to one another
  - Inconsistent with the new life (Christ)

# 1. Off with the Old (3:5-9)

- *Lay aside; renounce*
  - Anger – internal; smoldering, seething
  - Wrath – anger expressed externally
  - Malice – personal animosity
  - Slander – blasphemy; reviling words
  - Abusive speech – obscene; innuendo

## 2. On with the New (3:10-17)

### A. Having put on the new self (10)

- The new life: Christ-like; holy; heavenly
  - 3:1-4; Eph. 4:20-24
- New privileges / responsibilities (Phil. 3:20)
- New desires (Matt. 5:6; Rom. 12:1)

## 2. On with the New (3:10-17)

### A. Having put on the new self (10)

- Who is being renewed (progressive)
  - To (in) a true knowledge (see 1:9-10)
    - John 17:3; Prov. 2:1-6; 9:10
- According to the image of the One who created him (Rom. 8:29; 13:13-14)

## 2. On with the New (3:10-17)

### A. Having put on the new self (10)

- No distinctions / classes / caste
  - National: Greek / Jew
  - Religious: circumcised / uncircumcised
  - Cultural: barbarian / Scythian
  - Social: slave / free

# So What?

- Am I actively pursuing holiness?
- Am I putting the old master to death?
- Do I entertain anger, wrath, malice, etc.?
- Am I growing in my knowledge?
- Is there any hint of prejudice?