

Living a New Life—Laying Aside the Old Man and Putting on the New Man

March 22-24, 2024

Ashland Woods Fellowship Center

Message One
The Change described

Jesus causes our life to change when we receive Him and grow in Him.

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How does that work?

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- Do I change from my old life to the new automatically, or do I need to intentionally choose to change?
- What does the new life look like?
- Why does my old life sometimes feel so powerful when I fall backward to the old?
- How do I grow in my new life?

Jesus causes our life to change when we receive Him and grow in Him.

The best way to describe that drastic change is to study the difference between the old man and the new man as described in the New Testament.

Overview of change

¹⁷Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²²to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:17–32

Overview of change—the old

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²⁰But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²²to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:17–32

Overview of change—the new

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Overview of change—the process

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*sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. **²⁰But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²²to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.***

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We will see that living in the new man

- Is based on Christ's death on the cross, where he created the new man
- *¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, Ephesians 2:13-15*

We will see that living in the new man

- Involves leaving behind our old life—putting off the old man, which is being corrupted because it is connected to the old creation
- *⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices Colossians 3:9*
- *²²to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, Ephesians 4:22*

We will see that living in the new man

- Involves putting on a new life—putting on the new man, which is being renewed continually by God
- ²⁴*and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*
Ephesians 4:24
- ¹⁰*and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*
Colossians 3:10

We will see that living in the new man

- Is intentionally maintained by us being continually taught in Christ to put off the old and to put on the new. On the one hand, putting off the old man and putting on the new man are finished works in us. On the other hand, we must continually apply these as we are taught in Christ.
- *²⁰But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²²to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:20-24*

We will see that living in the new man

- Is empowered by Christ and our present, real experience of “learning Christ”
- *²⁰But that is not the way you learned Christ!—Ephesians 4:20*

We will see that living in the new man

- Involves continually being renewed in the spirit of our mind
- ²³*and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,* ²⁴*and to put on the new self...*Ephesians 4:23-24

We will see that living in the new man

- Brings us into God's profound work of ending the old creation by sowing it into the ground and growing the new creation in resurrection
- *⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:46–49*
- *⁴⁴It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 1 Corinthians 15:44*

We will see that living in the new man

- Is not individualistic, but involves community where there is no Greek or Jew, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free etc. Here, Christ is all and in all.
- *¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. Colossians 3:11*

We will see that living in the new man

- Results in us treating others in an entirely new way, with forgiveness, love, kindness, and words that build up and give grace
- *. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*
Ephesians 4:31–32
- *¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*
Colossians 3:12–14

We will see that living in the new man

- Results in a community where members allow the word of Christ to dwell in them richly so they can teach and encourage one another as all seek to honor the Holy Spirit who is sealing them
- *²⁹Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:29–30*
- *¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16*

We will see that living in the new man

- Is living in a realm where we thank God the Father, enjoy the peace of Christ the Son, seek not to grieve the Holy Spirit, as we build up fellow believers in a harmonious life in one body
- *¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17*
- *¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, Colossians 3:15–16*
- *. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30*
- *¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:14*

This is life change for the
pursuing Christian