

# THE BASIS OF THE BELIEVER'S NEW LIFE

## COLOSSIANS 03:01–04

### *Introduction*

This is one of the great passages of Scripture, a passage that believers often turn to in seeking a deeper and more committed walk with the Lord. It is the basis of the believer's new life.

- I. The believer's new life is a life that has been raised with Christ (v. 1).
- II. The believer's new life is a life that seeks the things above — in heaven, where Christ is (vv. 1-4).

### **I. *Colossians 03:01 Believer's New Life — Identification with Christ — Resurrected with Christ***

The believer's life is a life that has been raised with Christ. God loves His Son, Jesus Christ — loves Him with an eternal and perfect love. Therefore, when a person believes, really surrenders his life to Christ, God forgives the person's sins and accepts Him *in Christ*. God actually *identifies the person* with Christ in His death and resurrection. God begins to *consider the person* as having died and risen with Christ. The new believer was not bodily present when Christ died and arose, but God considers the believer to have been there. God reckons, credits and counts it so.

Remember: God does this for us because He loves His Son, Jesus Christ, so much. He loves Him so much that when we believe in Christ, God does *exactly what we believe*. He does this because our belief *focuses upon and honours Christ*. And because it honours God's Son, God counts our belief as the real thing. He counts us as having actually died and risen with Christ.

This means a most wonderful thing. It means that we are in union with Christ; we are identified with Christ. Our faith *in Christ* has placed us *in Christ*. Therefore, whatever Christ experienced we experienced. When He arose from the dead, we arose with Him. His resurrection means...

- that we have risen with Him.
- that we have conquered death.
- that we are raised to a new life.
- that our old life in this sinful world is over; it no longer has a claim upon us. We are, as stated, raised to a *newness of life*.
- that we are walking in newness of life, living a life that is dead to sin, but alive to God — alive to righteousness and holiness.

**Rom 8:11** *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

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**Eph 2:1, 6** *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.*

**Col 2:13** *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.*

**Col 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.*

## **II. Colossians 03:01–04 New Life Seeks the Things Above**

The believer's life is a life that seeks the things above, that is, the things that are in heaven where Christ is. Note three significant points.

1. Note the meaning of the charge: "set your hearts on things above." The meaning is clearly and pointedly explained in two statements:

=> First, set your hearts on things above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. That is, seek heavenly things, the things of heaven.

=> Second, set your *minds* (phromente) on things above and not on things on the earth. Set and focus your mind constantly upon heavenly things, not upon earthly things.

Very simply, the things of Christ and of heaven are to consume the believer's life and mind. But for the believer to keep his mind upon the things of Christ he must know what those things are. Therefore, the question naturally arises: What are the things of Christ and the things of heaven which are to consume our thoughts?

**Rom 8:5-6** *Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.*

**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 able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

**2 Cor 10:3-5** *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

**Eph 4:22-24** *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; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

The resurrection of Christ tells us what the things of Christ and of heaven are. It is His resurrection that allows us to be “*raised with Christ.*” Remember: we actually take part and participate in the resurrection of Christ. This is a *positional relationship* to God. As stated in the former note, when we accept Christ, God places us in Christ positionally. He begins to see us *in Christ, already seated in the heavenly realms and perfected forever* (see Eph. 2:4-7). It is because of this glorious position which God has given us that we should seek the things of Christ and of heaven. The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ has done at least seven wonderful things for us. These seven things should consume the thoughts of our minds and the praise and prayer of our lips.

- a. The resurrection of Christ shows and guarantees that Christ is the Son of God. Our thoughts should focus upon this glorious fact: that God has sent His Son into the world to save us.

**Rom 1:3-4** *Regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Jesus Christ claimed that He was the Son of God, that He possessed God's very own nature, that He was One with the Father (Jn. 10:30-33, 36, 5:19.) He claimed time and again that God was His Father (Jn. 5:17-30, 36-37, 43, 45; 6:29, 32-34, 37-40, 44-46, 57, 65; 8:16, 19, 25-29, 38, 42, 49, 54-55. See *Jesus Christ, Son of God*, Jn. 1:34.) When God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, He set His seal to Christ's claim. And by the resurrection God declares that Christ is His own dear Son.

- b. The resurrection of Christ saves and justifies us. The glorious truth of salvation and justification should consume our thoughts and praise all through the day.

**Rom 4:25** *He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*

- c. The resurrection of Christ gives us or raises us up to a new life — a life that is abundant and eternal. It is the only way we can keep from walking after the flesh (sinful nature).

**Rom 6:4** *We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

**Rom 6:5-13** *We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin — because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ*

*was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.*

**2 Cor 10:3-5** *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

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

- d. The resurrection of Christ gives us power to live victoriously over the sins and trials of this world and to bear the fruit of God's Spirit as we walk throughout this world.

**Rom 7:4** *So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.*

**Rom 8:11-13** *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation – but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*

**Gal 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

**Eph 1:19-20** *And [that you may know] his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.*

**Phil 2:8-9, 12-13** *And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*

**Col 1:10-11** *And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might [resurrection power] so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully.*

Imagine living a life of power bearing the fruit of God's Spirit as we walk day by day — conquering the sins and walking through the trials of life victoriously. It is through our union with Christ that we *receive the power* [energy] to triumphantly walk day by day (cp. Jn. 15:1-5 for an excellent description of our union with Christ),

- e. The resurrection gives us a living hope, the hope of glory. Our minds and praise should focus upon the glory of heaven which will be ours when either God takes us home or Christ returns.

**1 Pet 1:3-4** *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you.*

**Rom 8:11, 18** *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*

**1 Pet 1:21** *Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.*

- f. The resurrection guarantees our resurrection (see Cor. 15:12-58). Our thoughts and praise should centre upon the wonderful praise of the new and glorious body God has promised us.

**Rom 6:5** *If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.*

**2 Cor 4:14** *Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.*

**1 Th 4:14-18** *We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.*

- g. The resurrection assures that God will judge the world by Christ. Our minds and prayers should be focused upon evangelism and the terrible fact that judgment is coming. Every person will have to give an account to Christ and all those who have rejected Him will be eternally separated from God.

**Acts 17:31** “For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

**John 5:27-29** “And he [God] has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out — those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.”

Christ claimed that God had committed all judgment to Him: that He is the One whom God has appointed to judge the world. God stamped His approval to what Christ said by *raising Him* from the dead. Christ Himself will judge the world. Judgment is coming: the resurrection of Christ proves it.

2. Note the two reasons why we are to seek the things of Christ and of heaven: because we are dead, and our lives are *hidden with Christ* in God.
- a. The believer is dead. He is not actually dead; he still lives upon earth. But God *counts the believer dead* in the death of Christ. When Christ died, the believer died — right along with Christ *in God's mind*. God counts it so, and whatever God counts so, it is a fact. Therefore, the believer is actually dead in God's mind. This means a significant fact: a dead man cannot sin, for a dead man no longer lives for this earth. He lives for the next world.

**Thought 1.** Since we are dead, we are to seek and set our hearts upon the things of Christ and of heaven.

- b. The believer is *hidden with Christ*. What does this mean? It means that God counts the believer *hidden* in the resurrection and life of Christ. When Christ arose, He arose to a new life, not to His *old life*. He had just died to the old life once for all. Therefore, when the believer is said to be *hidden* in Christ, it means that God counts the believer risen with Christ. God counts the believer as risen to a new life. God sees the believer *hidden* in Christ day by day. God sees him walking *in* Christ and in Christ's righteousness. And because he is in Christ, the believer sets his mind upon things above, upon the things of Christ and of heaven. He sets his mind and life upon things that please Christ.

An excellent illustration of what it means to be “*hidden with Christ*” is this: take the index finger of your right hand and wrap your left hand around it. Say that the index finger represents you and the left hand represents Christ. Where are you (the index finger)? *In Christ*. You are hidden in Christ. When God looks at you, He sees you *hidden in Christ*. (See *Believer, Position in Christ*, Rom. 8:1.)

**Thought 1.** When you are hidden in Christ...

- Christ is the only life that God sees as living. Christ is your life in the eyes of God, the life in which you live.
- you live and move and have your being and roam around in the life of Christ. You are hidden in the life of Christ. You are not seen living and moving, for you are *hidden in Christ*. Christ is the only life, the only body that is seen by God and that is to be seen by the world.

Just think how surrendered and given over to Christ we are to be — so given over that Christ's life is all that is seen. How is such possible?

=> By seeking those things which are above, where Christ sits.

=> By setting our mind on things above, not on things on earth. By working to cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, even to the point of captivating every thought for Christ.

In practical day to day living, turn the television off; set aside the magazines and books. Get into the Word of God: meditate and pray through the Word, and memorize and live out the Word. In addition, get alone and pray — at least every morning and evening — and learn to silently whisper a prayer every few minutes. Surrender your life totally to Christ; present your body as a *living* sacrifice to God: to know, believe and understand Him and to make Him known. You are His witness — do it.

**Isa 43:10** “*You are my witnesses,*” declares the Lord, “*and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.*”

There is no way to know Him apart from setting our minds upon Him. Therefore, let us do it and do it now by getting to our secret place of prayer and seeking His face with a renewed commitment.

=> Our lives are hidden with Christ.

=> We live, yet not us, but Christ lives in us (Gal. 2:20).

=> We are always given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal body (2 Cor. 4:11).

=> For us to live is Christ, and to die is gain (Ph. 1:21).

=> We know this: we have passed from death to life — therefore, let us live for Christ (1 Jn. 3:14).

3. Note the reward for being hidden in Christ and for seeking the things of Christ and of heaven: the reward is that of appearing with Christ in glory. Think for a moment: God sees us *hidden with Christ*; therefore, we are risen with Christ. This means that being risen from the dead, we never have to die. Christ already lives in the presence of God.

Since God sees us *hidden with Christ*, God sees us in His presence. He has already accepted us as being in His presence forever and ever — all because we are there “*hidden with Christ.*”

Now, in practical terms we are still on earth. God has left us here to be witnesses for Him. But when He is ready to take us home to heaven, what happens is this: when we confront death — in the last second, in the last moment, right before we are to leave this world for the next — God will fix our minds upon Jesus and immediately transport us into His heavenly kingdom (see *Deliverance from Death*, 2 Tim. 4:18). God will give us a *fixation of mind* and we will never taste or experience death (see Jn. 8:51-52; Heb. 2:9).

Note that the verse has to do with the return of Christ. When Christ returns, we will appear or return with Him *in glory*. There is to be a new heavens and earth and Christ is to reign forever and ever, and we are to reign in glory with Him.

**Mat 13:43** “*Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.*”

**2 Cor 4:17** *For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*

**Phil 3:21** *Who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

**Col 3:4** *When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

**2 Tim 2:10** *Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.*

**1 Pet 5:1** *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed. ■*



# THE VIOLENT DEMANDS OF THE NEW LIFE

## COLOSSIANS 03:05–11

### *Introduction*

This is a violent passage of Scripture, a passage that attacks many persons right where they are living. But it is a passage that is desperately needed by us all. It covers the violent demands of the believer's new life in Christ.

- I. The first demand is violent:  
put to death all sins that enslave the body and its members (vv. 5-7).
- II. The second demand is violent:  
strip off the sins that enslave the emotions and tongue (vv. 8-11).

### **I. *Colossians 03:05–07 Put to Death Sins that Enslave***

The first demand is violent – put to death the sins that enslave the body and its members. The phrase “put to death” means to act as though the body is dead. The believer is to take the various parts of his body and put them to death in so far as sin is concerned. How does a believer do this? He considers his body to be *hidden in the death of Christ*. He acts as though his body is dead with Christ. And remember: a dead man cannot sin; a dead man can do nothing. Therefore, the believer is dead to sin.

The point is this: it is all an act of the mind or spirit. A person wants to live for God; therefore, he looks at his body and at sin. The only way he can possibly conquer sin is to treat his body as dead to sin or to consider sin as dead to his body. The person has to live as though his body has no part in sin, and sin has no part in his body. But note: this life is possible only in Christ. Christ alone – through the Holy Spirit – can work within the human heart and give it the energy and power to conquer sin *permanently and eternally*. Some men can discipline themselves to overcome some sin, but not *all sin, not permanently and not eternally*. This can be done only through Christ. There is an enormous difference between human discipline and godly control, and that difference is Jesus Christ. (See Ph. 2:13; Col.3:4.)

What sins are to be mortified or put to death? The Bible is very specific, for there are some very specific sins which tend to enslave the human body.

- a. There is the sin of *sexual immorality* (see note, pt. 2, Gal. 5:19-21).
  - b. There is the sin of *impurity* (see note, pt. 3, Gal.5:19-21).
  - c. There is the sin of *lust (pathos)*: passion, craving, strong desire, intense arousal, a driving lust. It is, of course, a desire and craving for the wrong things such as the second and third helping of food, alcohol, drugs, nudity, pornography, suggestive and filthy literature, illicit affairs, extramarital sex, etc.
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**Mat 5:28-29** “But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”

**Rom 1:26-27** Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

**Gal 5:16-17** So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

**Gal 5:24** Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

**2 Tim 2:22** Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

- d. There is *evil desires* (epithumian kaken): evil desire, a yearning and an aching for all kinds of evil. It is that within a person that pulls him to desire, grasp, grab and take hold of all forms of evil that give pleasure to the body and its members. It is that which drives the man to...

- continue to look
- continue to feel
- continue to touch
- continue to listen
- smell and smell
- seek and seek

**1 Th 4:5** Not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God.

**James 1:14-15** But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

**1 Pet 2:11** Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

- e. There is *greed* (pleonexian): craving, grasping, grabbing, desiring to have something. It is desiring to have something when it is not needed; it is desiring more than what we need and more than what we should have. Note that greed is idolatry. If a person looks at something so much that he covets it, he has set it up as a god which he pursues with the energy and effort of his mind and body. (See Eph. 4:17-19; Rom. 13:9.)

**Exo 20:17** “You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.”

**Jer 6:13** “From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit.”

**Ezek 33:31** My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice. With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain.

**Micah 2:2** They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them. They defraud a man of his home, a fellowman of his inheritance.

**Hab 2:9** “Woe to him who builds his realm by unjust gain to set his nest on high, to escape the clutches of ruin!”

**Luke 12:15** Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

**Col 3:5** Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

**1 Tim 6:10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

2. There are two strong reasons for putting to death the sins that enslave the body.
  - a. It is such sins that will bring down the wrath of God upon man. The word *wrath* (orge) means anger, but it is not the outburst of anger that quickly blazes up, not the anger that arises solely from emotion. Rather, it is a decisive and a deliberate anger. It is an anger that comes from a thoughtful decision, an anger that comes from the mind because someone has done something evil and hurtful. It is an anger that judges and condemns sin and evil, violence and slaughter, immorality and injustice. It is an anger that hates sin and evil and that metes out a just revenge and equal punishment.

**Mat 3:7** But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?”

**Rom 1:18** The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

**Rom 2:5,8-9** But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

**Eph 5:6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

**1 Th 1:9-10** *For they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead - Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.*

- b. It is such sins that were common to our old life. We used to walk and live in such sins, but not now. What is the difference? Christ. We are *hidden in Christ*. He has saved us from the sins that bring down the wrath of God upon us. To turn back and to begin walking in those sins again would be to deny Christ. And this we must not do...
- lest we break the heart of God by abusing the death of His dear Son
  - lest we bring down the wrath of God upon us

**Eph 2:1-2** *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*

**Phil 3:17-21** *Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

**1 Pet 4:3-5** *For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do — living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

**Jude 1:17-21** *But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.*

## **II. Colossians 03:08–11 Strip off Sins that Enslave**

The second demand is also violent — strip off the sins that enslave the emotions and tongue. The picture is that of putting off or stripping off clothes.

1. There are six sins that are to be stripped off. Note: all six have to do with either deep-seated emotions or else the tongue — reactions and feelings against another person.

- a. There is the sin of *anger* (orgen): (see Eph. 4:26-27).
- b. There is the sin of *rage* (thumon): (see Gal. 5:19-21).
- c. There is the sin of *malice* (kakian): deep-seated feelings against a person, hatred that lasts on and on, intense and long-lasting bitterness against a person.

*1 Cor 5:8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.*

*1 Cor 14:20 Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.*

*Eph 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.*

*Col 3:8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips.*

*1 Pet 2:1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander of every kind.*

- d. There is the sin of *slander* (blasphemian): speech that insults, hurts, injures and shows contempt. It is railing at someone.

*Acts 18:6 But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."*

*1 Tim 1:20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.*

*James 2:6-7 But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?*

*Rev 13:1 And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.*

*Rev 16:11 And cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.*

- e. There is the sin of *filthy language* (aischrologian) (see Eph. 5:4).
- f. There is the sin of *lying* (see Eph. 4:25).
2. There are three strong reasons as to why we are to strip off the sins of the emotions and tongue.
  - a. We have put off the *old man* or *old person* (see *Old Self*, Eph. 4:22).

- b. We have put on the *new man* or *new person* (see *New Self*, Eph. 4:24; *Renewed Mind*, Eph. 4:23).
- c. We are all *one body* in Christ (v. 11). Christ has made it possible for us to be adopted as children, sons and daughters, of God. We are all — everyone of us — children of God. We belong to the same family — the family of God. Therefore, there is no place for reacting against each other, no place for...
- anger
  - rage
  - malice
  - lying
  - filthy talk
  - slanderous, insulting, hurting talk

Note how Scripture covers everything that could possibly cause feelings and divisions between us:

- => race and birth (Greek nor Jew)
- => religion and ritual (circumcision nor uncircumcision)
- => education and culture (Barbarian nor Scythian)
- => social class and wealth and property (bond and free)

**Rom 12:5** *So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

**1 Cor 10:17** *Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.*

**Gal 3:28** *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

**Eph 4:13** *Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ■*

**EPHESIANS 04:22**  
**OLD PERSON, OLD SELF, OLD MAN**

*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. **Ephesians 04:22***

The “old person, the old self” refers to what a man is *before he accepts Christ*. It is the very *nature of man*, the *natural*, corruptible seed which is passed on from generation to generation and leads to death. It is what is called the nature of Adam. (See *Natural Man*, 1 Cor. 2:14.)

Three things are taught about the old person, the old self in the Scriptures.

1. The believer’s *old person or self* has already been put to death. It was crucified with Christ (Rom. 6:6). When the believer received Christ, God began

immediately to count him buried with Christ and united with Christ in the very likeness of His death. This is the meaning symbolized in baptism.

2. The deeds of the old person, or self have been *taken off* from the believer (Col. 3:9). The power of evil deeds has been broken and the believer is no longer in bondage to them.
3. In this passage, the believer himself is exhorted to *put off the old person or self*. He is told to exercise his own will in putting off the *old man*. He so wills by realizing and acting upon three truths.
  - a. The old person or self, from God's perspective, is counted dead. Therefore, the believer *counts* his old man as already being dead.

**Rom 6:11** *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

- b. The old person or self is recognized as being very much alive. The old man is tempted to *look, taste, feel, think* — to *experience sin*. But the believer rejects the temptation. He refuses to participate in sin. He puts off the old man as he walks day by day.

**Rom 6:12-13** *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.*

- c. The old man (including all creation) is seen aging and dying day by day. The believer realizes that this world and all that is within it, including his old man, is in a constant process of dying. He knows that all is dying because the evil desires of nature are deceitful, and deceit disturbs and destroys relationships — the very nature of things (Eph. 4:22). Such destruction deteriorates and corrupts; it eats away at life and at the balance of things until all things become nothing but decayed matter. Therefore the believer puts off the old man and puts on the new man — by faith in the love of God. When a person believes in the love of God, God responds by loving him so much that He makes a permanent man out of him, a new man who is to live eternally and become a citizen of the new heavens and earth.

**Rom 6:6** *For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.*

**Eph 4:22** *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.*

**Col 3:9** *Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.*

**1 Pet 4:3** *For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do – living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.*

**2 Pet 1:9** *But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. □*

### EPHESIANS 04: 23 RENEWED MIND

*To be made new in the attitude of your minds: **Ephesians 04:23***

The believer's mind is to be *renewed* or *made new* (ananeousthai), which means to be, readjusted, changed, turned around and regenerated.

a. The mind of man has been affected by sin. It desperately needs to be renewed. The mind is far from perfect. It is *basically worldly*, that is...

- selfish
- self-centred
- self-seeking
- centred on this world
- centred on the flesh
- centred on this life

Scripture is clear about the corruption of man's mind. The human mind has just been tragically corrupted by man's selfishness and sin. Man's mind...

- has become vain, empty and futile in its *thinking*.

**Rom 1:21** *For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

- has become *depraved*.

**Rom 1:28** *Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.*

- has become sinful and hostile to God.

**Rom 8:7** *The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.*

- has become blinded by Satan so that it cannot see the light of the gospel.

**2 Cor 4:4** *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

- has become of vanity, futility, emptiness.



**Eph 4:17** *So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.*

- has become focused upon earthly things.

**Phil 3:18-19** *For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.*

- has become alienated from God and an enemy to God.

**Col 1:21** *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour.*

- has become unspiritual

**Col 2:18** *Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.*

- has become corrupted.

**Titus 1:15** *To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.*

- b. The mind is renewed or made new by the presence of Christ in the life of the believer. When a person receives the Lord Jesus Christ as His Lord, the person is *spiritually*...
- born again (Jn. 3:3-8; 1 Pet. 1:23).
  - Made into a new person or self (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10).
  - Made into a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).
  - given the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16; see vv. 9-15).

What this means is a most wonderful truth, and it is easily seen. When a person receives Jesus Christ into his life, he receives the mind of Christ as well. Christ places His mind into the believer's mind; that is, Christ changes the believer's mind to focus upon God. Whereas the believer's mind used to be centred upon the world, it is now centred upon spiritual matters. The believer's mind is renewed, changed, turned around and regenerated to focus upon God. However, it is critical to remember that only Christ can renew the human mind. Only Christ can implant, *the mind of Christ* within a person. Only Christ can give a person His thoughts and the spirit to *live out* His thoughts.

- c. The believer is to live a transformed life; that is, he is to walk day-by-day *renewing his mind more and more*. He is to allow the Spirit of Christ (the Holy Spirit) to focus his mind more and more upon God and spiritual things.

=> The believer is to love the Lord with all his mind.

**Mat 22:37** *Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”*

=> The believer is to keep his mind upon spiritual things, not carnal or sinful things.

**Rom 8:5-6** *Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.*

=> The believer is to demolish arguments, cast down imaginations and every thought that interrupts his knowledge of God and to captivate every thought for Christ.

**2 Cor 10:3-5** *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

=> The believer is not to let his mind be led astray.

**2 Cor 11:3** *But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

=> The believer is not to fulfil the desires of the sinful nature.

**Eph 2:3** *All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.*

=> The believer is not to walk as the world walks, in the futility of their thinking.

**Eph 4:17** *So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.*

=> The believer is to be made new in the attitude of his mind.

**Eph 4:23** *To be made new in the attitude of your minds.*

=> The believer is to have the same attitude as Christ by walking humbly before God and men.

**Phil 2:5** *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:*

=> The believer is to think only upon the things of praise and excellence.

**Phil 4:8** *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.*

=> The believer is to live by the laws of God which God has put into his mind.

**Heb 8:10** *This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.*

=> The believer is to arm himself with the same attitude as Christ in bearing suffering.

**1 Pet 4:1** *Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. □*

### EPHESIANS 04:24 NEW PERSON OR SELF

*And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 04:24*

A man *regenerated, renewed, born again* who has become spiritual minded. It is a *new person or self* created by Christ; he has been given a holy nature and an incorruptible life. It is opposed to the *old person or self* with a corrupt nature. It is a man who is...

- in fellowship with God
- obedient to God's will
- devoted to God's service

There are two Greek words translated by the English word *new*. There is the word *neos* which refers to something new that has just been made, but there are already many others existing just like it. There is the word *kainos* which refers to something new, something just made and there is nothing like it in existence. *Kainos* is the word used here. Jesus Christ makes a *new man* entirely — a creation unlike any other creation existing. The Gentile believer is not made into a Jew; neither is a Jewish believer made into a Gentile. Each, through the Lord Jesus Christ, is made into a *new kind of person — a new person or self in God*. Every person *can begin life all over again*; every person can have a new beginning, a new life by coming to Jesus Christ.

How is this possible? By the power of God. When a person believes in God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ — really believes and entrusts his life into the hands of Jesus Christ — God creates the spirit of the person in righteousness and true holiness. God takes the faith of the person and *credits it as the righteousness of Jesus Christ*. God actually credits the person's faith *as the perfect righteousness and holiness of Jesus Christ*. Therefore, the person stands before God in the righteousness and holiness of Jesus Christ. But note: this is not all that God does. He does more marvelous things for the believer — all having to do with creating the believer into a new person.

1. God quickens or makes the spirit of the believer alive. Whereas the believer's spirit was dead to God, God creates it and makes it alive to God.
2. God causes the believer to be born again spiritually.
3. God actually places His divine nature into the heart of the believer.
4. God actually creates a new person or self out of the believer.
5. God renews the believer by the Holy Spirit. □