

In Colossians 3, Paul clearly taught there is a difference, a before and after reality, when one comes to know Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord. The first words found in verse five, “therefore consider,” are tied directly back to verse one where Paul says “If then you were raised with Christ.”

Paul was saying, if you have experienced the transforming power of God, you are challenged to abandon your old lifestyle and adopt the lifestyle that represents Christ. People should be able to tell the difference between those who are Christians and those who are not.

Key thought: When Christ is your life, the transformation begins with the inner man and is manifest/displayed in the way you act.

EXPLANATION

Matthew 15:19; Romans 12:1-2; Romans 1:24; Philippians 2:5

The transformation of the inner man includes...

1. What you think about yourself. (verse 5)
2. What you believe about God’s judgment. (verses 6-7)
3. What you think about others. (verses 8-11)

“Grace bridges all chasms.” *William Hendricksen*

The problem is not what is on the outside that gets in, it’s what is on the inside. You are what you are because of who you are on the inside.

APPLICATION

1. Cremation – “put to death”
2. Eradication – “rid yourself”
3. Action – “take off”
4. Appropriation – “put on”
5. Progression – “being renewed”
6. Reflection – “according to the image”
7. Inclusion – “no distinction”

“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...” *2 Corinthians 5:14-18*