

Col. 3:4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.
3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
3:6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,
3:7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.
3:8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.
3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,
3:10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

October 19, 2025 Colossians 3:4-10

Sermon Title: "Put on the New Self, Leading to True Knowledge"

[From Today's Sermon]

Last week's passage stated that we are dead.

"If you have died with Christ from the elemental spirits of the world, why do you still live as though you were living in the world...?" "You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

But it also says this:

"Therefore put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed." "But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to one another, since you have taken off your old self with its practices..."

If it is already dead, the old power should not rise again. We should not be drawn back to it. Yet we must continue to put to death, cast off, and strip away the fleshly nature.

But we are not cast adrift on a hopeless, eternal journey of training. It is not a lonely battle.

"You have put off the old self with its practices and have been renewed in the spirit of your mind, and have put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." We have taken off the filthy clothes and been renewed; we have put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. How could we, now refreshed and clean, ever need to put on those soiled garments again? We are thankful.

Introduction (Scripture References)

Romans 5:17 For if by the one man's offense judgment came to condemn all men, much more

did those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

5:18 For as by one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one the many will be made righteous.

5:19 For as by one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one the many will be made righteous.

5:20 The law came in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

5:21 So that, just as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

6:2 Certainly not! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

6:3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

6:4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, It is so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life.

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

6:6 We know that our old self was crucified with him. This was done so that this body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be slaves to sin.

6:7 For he who has died is freed from sin.

6:8 If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

6:9 For we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has dominion over him.

6:10 For the death that Christ died, he died to sin once for all; but the life that he lives, he lives to God.

6:11 Likewise you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, making you obey its passions.

6:13 And do not present the parts of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from the dead to life, and your members to God as instruments of righteousness.

6:14 For you are not under law but under grace, so that you are not under sin.

6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

6:16 Do you not know that If you submit yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey, whether of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness.

6:17 But thanks be to God, that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted,

6:18 and having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

6:19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. Just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

6:20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from righteousness.

6:21 What fruit did you bear then? Things of which you are now ashamed. The end of those things is death.

6:22 But now, having been set free from sin and having become slaves to God, you bear fruit that leads to sanctification. The end of that is eternal life.

6:23 The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

8:3 For what the law could not do, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as an offering for sin. He condemned sin in the flesh,

8:4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.

8:7 Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for indeed it cannot.

8:8 The person without the Spirit cannot please God.

8:9 But if God's Spirit lives in you, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

8:10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

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

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.

Galatians 5:14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

5:15 But take care, lest by any means, while you are biting and devouring one another, you are destroyed by one another.

5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

5:17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, so that you cannot do the things you want to do.

5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

5:19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery,

5:20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions,

5:21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. As I have said before, so now I say again: Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

In Galatians, living by the Spirit is summarized concretely as living in love. This is a crucial interpretation. The moral and ethical value judgment of whether one lives by the flesh or by the Spirit is often ambiguous. But it becomes clear when we consider that those who live according to the flesh cannot fulfill love. Why should we abandon the flesh and live by the Spirit? It is so that we do not carry within us the factors and weaknesses that constantly crush and hinder the world where we can live in love at every moment, even in the spur of the moment. We are always prepared to practice love—that is the characteristic of those who live by the Spirit. That is the life we lead, bearing fruit.

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-dresser.

15:2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

15:3 You are already clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abide in the

vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit; For apart from me you can do nothing.

15:6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

15:8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

15:9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

15:10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. Just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love,

15:11 I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

15:12 This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

15:14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for everything that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

15:17 This is my command: Love each other.

John 13:34 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 8:29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him. I always do what pleases him. He will never leave me alone.“

8:30 After he had said this, many believed in him.

8:31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

8:32 You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.“

John 4:19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet.

4:20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

4:21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

4:22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

4:23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. For the Father seeks such people to worship him.

4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

4:25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things."

4:26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

4:27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

4:28 Leaving her water jar there, she went off to the town and said to the people,

4:29 "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did. Come and see. Maybe this is the Christ."

4:30 So they left the town and hurried off to Jesus.

4:31 Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

4:32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."

4:33 So the disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?"

4:34 Jesus answered them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

4:35 You say, 'There are still four months until harvest time.' But I tell you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest.

4:36 The reaper receives his wages and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that both the sower and the reaper may rejoice together.

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

1:23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

1:24 for he looks at himself and goes away and immediately forgets what he was like.

1:25 But the one who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not being a forgetful hearer but a doer who acts—this person will be blessed in what he does.

1:26 If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not bridle his tongue, he deceives himself, and his religion is worthless.

1:27 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our Father God is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Matthew 7:13 Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate that leads to destruction is wide, and the road is broad, and many enter through it.

7:14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

7:15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

7:16 You will know them by their fruits. Does anyone gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles?

7:17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

7:18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

7:19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

7:20 So by their fruits you will recognize them.

7:21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

7:22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'

7:23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

7:24 Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

7:25 The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

7:26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

7:27 When the rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, it fell—and great was its fall."

Matthew 11:28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

11:30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Good morning, everyone.

The weather continues with hot days and cool mornings and evenings. As we pass the midpoint of October, I notice the days are growing shorter.

In the church calendar, next week is the Ninth Sunday before Christmas. We are approaching the time of Advent, waiting for Advent to begin on November 30th.

I pray that the fatigue of summer may be healed as quickly as possible, that we may enjoy this good autumn season, savor the autumn of appetite, the autumn of outings, and enjoy the autumn of sports by moving our bodies a little.

Now, we have reached the middle of chapter 3 in Colossians. The writing is finally approaching its core.

3:3 You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

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

We can see that verse 3 from last week and verse 4 this week form a unified whole.

Our life is hidden with Christ in God, and Christ Himself is our life. For us, life exists in Christ, and Christ is our very life itself. Our life is in Christ, and Christ is our life... this life exists as one indivisible whole within Christ.

3:5 Therefore put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry.

3:6 Because of these, God's wrath is coming.

Verse 5 begins with "therefore." Since Christ and we are one, it means we must cast off anything that drives a wedge into that relationship.

Earlier, Paul said:

2:20 If you have died with Christ to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as though you were still alive in the world,

2:21 are you subject to regulations—"Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch"—

3:3 You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

But here it says, “Put to death.” Were you not already dead? What must be put to death are the earthly parts of the body—specifically, the six Greek words listed as their description: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, greed, evil, wrongdoing, and again, greed—that feeling of being compelled to do something.

Our original sin, the innate nature of the flesh, attacks us with such relentless force, this “greed in the sense of being compelled to do something.”

Just as it is written in James 3:

3:2 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person is deluding himself.

3:3 Behold, we put a bit into the mouth of a horse to control its entire body.

3:4 Or take ships as an example: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wishes to go.

3:5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, yet it boasts of great things. See how a small fire can set a great forest ablaze.

3:6 The tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. Among the parts of the body, it is the one that is defiled by all the parts, setting on fire the course of our life and set on fire by hell.

3:7 Every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and sea creature is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.

3:8 But no one can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

3:9 With it we bless our Father in heaven, and with it we curse people made in God's likeness.

3:10 Out of the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

3:11 Can a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water?

3:12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring yield fresh water.

3:13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

3:14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

3:15 Such wisdom does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

3:16 Where there is envy and factionalism, there is disorder and every evil practice.

3:17 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

3:18 People who make peace sow in peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

Thus, we feel compelled to act by the evil that dwells within us—an unruly evil, a world of unrighteousness, filled with the poison of death. The Bible calls this our greed.

It is an endless craving, a “I want, I want,” which leads to the events described in James 4:

4:1 Where do the conflicts and quarrels among you come from? Do they not come from the desires that battle within your own members?

4:2 You covet and cannot obtain, so you kill. You covet and cannot get, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

4:3 You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

4:4 You adulterers and adulteresses! Don't you know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

A heart that seeks to trample others because it pursues only itself. A heart that insists on placing itself above all else. This is the cause of strife and war. Unable to control the desire to possess, one falls into the mindset of taking what belongs to others to get what they want. This is the root of all evil.

1 Timothy 6:5 And in their desire for profit they will be pierced through with many sorrows.

6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

6:7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

6:8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

6:9 Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

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

6:11 But you, man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

6:12 Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Matthew 6:22 The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will

be full of light.

6:23 But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

6:24 No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

6:25 Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?

6:26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not far more valuable than they?

6:27 Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

6:28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin.

6:29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

6:30 If God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

6:31 Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

6:32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

6:34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

We have been led to love Jesus, who said we should lay down our lives for others, and to live by faith in Him. Since our faith began there, we desire to continue walking in that place always.

Matthew 20:20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and knelt before him, asking him for something.

20:21 He said to her, “What do you want?” She replied, “Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one at your right and one at your left, in your kingdom.”

20:22 Jesus replied, “You don't know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” They said to him, “We can.”

20:23 Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not mine to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

20:24 When the ten heard this, they were indignant at the two brothers.

20:25 Then Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.

20:26 It shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave.

20:27

20:28 For just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

3:6 For these things the wrath of God is coming down.

3:7 You also once walked in these things, when you lived in them.

The expression "You also once walked in these things, when you lived in them" is unique.

It's like saying, "When you liked eating ramen, you liked eating ramen," a kind of repetitive expression.

Here, we sense God's intense gaze. We wander aimlessly, drifting away from the truth. God watched us closely as we veered right and left. Ultimately, day in and day out, we lived lives that missed the mark.

3:8 But now, put all these things aside: anger, rage, malice, slander, and shameful words from your mouth.

3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices

3:10 and have put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

"The old self and its deeds." Anger, rage, malice, slander—contempt, insult, blasphemy, shameful words from the mouth. Self-centered, self-important. Others don't matter. These traits lingered in our hearts forever and ever. We cast them off, abandoning that old way of life—speaking lies, hating sincerity, concealing truth—and began speaking honestly. We shed those old, filthy, foul-smelling rags and "put on the new self, created after the likeness of God

in true righteousness and holiness.”

Here lies victory. Here lies hope. No longer must we wear garments soaked in the filth of greed, becoming objects of disgust. Now we are clothed in the pure and noble “new self, created after God's own image, to put on true knowledge.” We have been “created anew in the image of our Creator.” This means we have been renewed in the image of the Creator. It is truly a miraculous, thorough renovation. The foul stench of the old self has vanished. We have been “renewed in the image of the Creator” and “put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge.” What a revolutionary change this is! How blessed we are to have received such grace, such a thorough transformation, such a grand reopening! No, no—this is not a result of karma. It is God's unilateral grace. It is through God's work of forgiveness, nailing Jesus to the cross and pouring out His life to give us life. With gratitude, overflowing with the joy of being made new, we desire to walk the path “to true knowledge,” to be continually cleansed and remade, and to live each day “renewed in the image of our Creator.”

◇**Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for today's worship. Because of our weakness, we often find ourselves isolated and unsure where to seek help, leading us to act according to our own ways. Yet we are given the path to “put on the new self, created in God's image, and be renewed day by day to attain true knowledge.” For this, we give thanks. We thank You that we can walk a path that is pure, righteous, beautiful, filled with blessings, bright, and joyful. Please lead all those who suffer into Your salvation and peace. Bless our families and our neighbors. Use us. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.**