

Putting on the New Man and the Constitution and Renewing of the New Man

Scripture Reading: Col. 3:10-11, 17; Eph. 2:15; 4:22-24

- I. The ultimate goal of God in His economy is to gain the new man constituted with the all-inclusive Christ wrought into a corporate people—Col. 1:27; 2:2, 9, 3:10-11**
- A. The new man and the Body are synonyms—Christ and we together form a universal man; as the One in heaven, Christ is the Head, and as those on earth, we are the Body—1:18a.
 - B. The new man is the corporate God-man, with Christ, the firstborn Son, as the Head and the believers, the many sons of God, as the Body—3:10; Rom. 8:29; Heb. 2:10.
- II. Although the new man was already created in Christ, we still need to put on the new man—Col. 3:10; Eph. 2:15; 4:24**
- A. Since the new man is the Body of Christ, to put on the new man means to live a life by the Body, not individually but corporately, where we are delivered from an individualistic life to a Body life—Acts 9:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:18-20; Philem. 14.
 - B. Before we were saved we were living in the old man and in the old society; but now we are members of Christ living in His Body, so we should put on the new man, the church—Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:12-15.
 - C. In order to put on the new man in an experiential way, we need to take Christ as our person—Eph. 3:17a; Gal. 2:20.
 - 1. The church is the new man, and in this new man there is only one person—Christ—Matt. 17:5.
 - 2. The old man must be put off, and we must live by our new person—vv. 5-9; Rom. 6:6.
 - 3. When we live by taking Christ as our person, especially in making decisions, our living will be the living of the new man—15:32; James 4:13-15.
 - D. To put on the new man in a practical way, we need to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus—Col. 3:17.
 - 1. The name denotes the person, and the Lord's person is the Spirit—2 Cor. 3:17a.
 - 2. To do things in the name of the Lord is to act in the Spirit; this is to live Christ—Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:4; Phil. 1:21a.
- III. The new man is Christ constituted into us—Col. 3:10-11; Eph. 3:17a; 4:24**
- A. As the One who indwells us and who is our life, Christ is the constituent of the new man—Col. 1:27; 3:4.
 - B. The Christ we enjoy as our God-allotted portion becomes the constituent of the new man—1:12.
 - C. Because Christ is all and in all in the new man, there is only room for Christ; there is no room for the natural man—3:11.
 - 1. Since Christ is all and in all in the new man and we are a part of the new man, we are part of Christ—1 Cor. 12:12.
 - 2. The only way for Christ to be all and in all in the new man is for Him to be constituted into us—John 14:2, 23.
- IV. Concerning the new man, we need to be “renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him”—Col. 3:10**
- A. The new man is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—v. 10.
 - 1. This image is Christ, God's Beloved—the wonderful, glorious, all-inclusive Christ as the expression of God—1:15.
 - 2. We need to be renewed in our mind unto full knowledge according to the expression of God, according to what Christ is—Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23.
 - B. The renewing of the new man depends on our seeking the things which are above—Col. 3:1-2.
 - 1. If we turn to the heavenly Christ with all His activities and set our mind on these things, the renewing of the new man will take place spontaneously—Heb. 8:1-2; 12:2; Col. 3:2, 10.
 - 2. When we set our mind on the things above, the way is open for the divine element to spread from

our regenerated spirit into our soul—cf. Rom. 8:6.

Focus: The new man is the ultimate goal of God's economy and has been created but requires our cooperation to put on the new man, to be constituted with the new man, Christ, and to be renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him.