

## ***Living The New Life In Christ (Col. 3:1-14)***

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. When I was very young I remember traveling from Denmark to Sweden. It was back when in Sweden people used to drive on the left side of the road like in the U.K. As my dad drove off the ferry, he suddenly realized that there were cars driving straight at him. He barely missed a head-on collision. My dad was driving on the wrong side of the road.
- B. Learning how to live the Christian life is much like the example I just mentioned. You have to orient your life in a completely new way than what you are used to. It may seem really odd and unnatural at first, but it is worth the switch.

### **II. LIVING FROM A HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE**

- A. We are called to live from a heavenly perspective. To live a whole new way of life than we are used to living. We have been used to orienting everything from a purely “natural” perspective, but now God calls us to live from a “heavenly” perspective.  
***“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in Glory” (Col. 3:1-4).***
- B. ***“Raised with Him”(v.1):*** The word “raised” means, to be roused from the dead. To be raised to live a new blessed life in Christ.
- C. ***“Set your mind” (v.2):*** “Mind” means *to have a sentiment of opinion, to be disposed in a certain direction, to regard.* We don’t view or think according to the world’s standards, but according to God’s, because our opinions are now rooted from Christ’s perspective. You can say, we are now a “heavenly man”.
- D. ***“Hidden with Christ in God” (v.3):*** “hidden” means *to be concealed by covering, to be concealed that it may not become known.* The heavenly man lives a concealed life, a “hidden” life with Christ in God. The reward is *When Christ appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory (v.4).*

### **III. GETTING INTO THE NITTY-GRITTY**

- A. The gospel message is highly practical! As has been said, “Let’s skip the chitchat and get into the nitty-gritty.” People around you today, who are against God and His ways do not mince about words and opinions. Neither should we. Let’s have an honest discussion about what New Testament Christianity is all about. There are things we need to “put off” and there are things we should “put on”.  
***5“Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry (v.5)... anger, wrath, malice,***

*blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth... (v.8) Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man (v.9) ” (Col. 3:5-9).*

- B. **“fornication”** is sexual sin outside of marriage. **“evil desire”** longing for what is forbidden. **“Covetousness”** desire to have more (also called idolatry). The apostle speaks of these vices in the context of our past life, *“In which you also once walked when you lived in them” (v.7).* *“You have put off the old man with his deeds” (v.9).* See also 1 Cor. 6:11 (*washed, sanctified, justified*).

#### IV. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A “PUT ON”

- A. People used to say, *“Christians are just put-on’s!”* meaning, Christians are fake people or hypocrites. There is a real sense in where that is actually true. According to Colossians 3:10, there are things we are exhorted to “put on” as followers of Christ.

*10“and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created Him. (Col. 3:10).*

- B. **“Renewed in knowledge” (v. 10)** means, *changed into a new kind of life as opposed to the former corrupt state. “according to the image of Him who created him” (v.10).* The word “image” is the Greek word *eikon*, meaning, an image of the heavenly things.
- C. The idea of “image” is pattern or moral or spiritual likeness. In creation, God planned for man to have full knowledge. In Christ, he renews man after the original pattern or plan and gives him a sound mind and true knowledge. (2 Tim 1:7, 2 Pet. 1:3-13)

#### V. THE CHARACTER OF THE NEW MAN

- A. This next section describes the character of the New Man. This person, created after the likeness of Christ, is completely unnatural to most people. It takes effort of a change of thinking to become this person in Christ. However, Jesus gives us the “want to” and ability to live this kind of life.

*“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.” (Col. 3:12-14).*

- B. **“Tender mercies” (v.12)** means *pity, inward affection, bowels of compassion.* **“Humility”** means, *having a humble opinion of oneself, lowliness of mind.* It means to look on others. **“Bearing with one another” (v.13),** means, to put up with. To endure. **“forgiving one another”** means, *to grant a favor, pardon, to deliver. To do something pleasant or agreeable to someone.*
- C. **“Above all... Put on love” (v.14).** The word for love is “agape”. It means brotherly love, affection. Divine love (1 Cor. 13. Matt. 5:43-48). They will know we are Christians by our love. Love is to be the main value of the new life as Christians.