

**Colossians - Chapter 3**  
**“Reflecting Christ’s Image”**  
**Colossians 3:10-11**

**Verse 10**

1. Praise the Lord, we are not told to simply put off ungodly actions and attitudes without any power source for doing so. We don’t put off fleshly action through self-effort and self-determination.
2. Paul reminds these believers that they have “*put on the new man.*” What does this mean?
  - Every believer has been made one with Jesus Christ. Paul already told them that the riches of the glory of the mystery is “*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*” vs. 1:27
  - Colossians 3:11 confirms this when Paul says, “*Christ is all, and in all.*”
3. So, every believer has put off the old man (the sin nature of Adam) and has put on the new man (the righteous nature of Jesus Christ). We have a new position, new identity, and new nature in Christ.
  - Remember, the old sin nature is not eradicated, but it is rendered powerless by virtue of the spiritual circumcision of Christ. vs. 2:11
  - There is a new sheriff in town! The only power that old fleshly nature has is what we give it. Christ now lives in us!
4. Isn’t this wonderful? God has provided everything that we need in Christ. God didn’t just put off the filthy clothes of the old man, but has clothed us in the new, righteous, holy nature of Jesus Christ.
  - When it says, “*And have put on...*” this verb tense means that is has already been done.
5. But then Paul says, “*...which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him...*” This verb tense carries the idea of a present and continuing work.
6. Christ has created you a new person in Him, but there is a renewing process that takes place that shapes and conforms us into the image of Christ. This means we begin to reflect Christ in our daily actions and attitudes. Romans 8:29
7. This happens as we grow in the knowledge of Christ, as we study the Word of God, and God’s Word gets inside of us.
  - The Thessalonians were pagan idolaters. They received the gospel and were saved (they put on the new man).
  - But, then they received and digested God’s Word, and it had worked effectually in their lives to create behavioral change (they were renewed in knowledge). 1 Thessalonians 1:9, 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 1:3
8. As we begin to get rooted in sound doctrine and discover all that we now possess in Christ, we are renewed (renovated) in knowledge, and we begin to reflect the image of the One who now lives in us. Let’s summarize:
  - I have put on the new man (a one-time event) – salvation (I receive everything I need in Christ).
  - I am renewed in knowledge (a continual process) – sanctification (I grow and learn all that I have been given in Christ).

9. God originally **formed** man in His image, sin **deformed** us, but through Christ we are **transformed** back into His image.

### Verse 11

1. I love this verse. Paul emphasizes that a believer's racial, cultural, or religious heritage has nothing to do with that person's ability to grow and be conformed into Christ's image.
  - "*Greek nor Jew*" – your nationality
  - "*Circumcision nor uncircumcision*" – your religious background
  - "*Barbarian, Scythian*" – your cultural background (Scythians were a barbaric race of nomadic raiders, notorious for their cruelty and barbarism.)
  - "*Bond nor free*" – your political, social, or economic background
2. In Christ, a person's political, financial, religious, or cultural position gives him no spiritual advantages or disadvantages. The ground is level at Calvary! Human distinctions are part of the old man, not the new man. cf. Galatians 3:26-28
3. Every believer stands complete in Christ and has the same Jesus in them. Paul said, "*Christ is all, and in all.*"
4. Every person has the same opportunity and responsibility to grow, and be renewed in knowledge, and conformed to the image of Christ. There is no caste system in the body of Christ. For example:
  - A person who is wealthy with this world's possessions may be saved, but be very immature in his Christian walk.
  - A person who is poor by cultural standards may be extremely mature in Christ and truly reflect the image of Christ in his daily life.
  - Unfortunately, in many local assemblies, the wealthy man receives a position of leadership in the local body while the poor man is forgotten. This is carnal and very wrong. This is what people call "politics" in the local church, and it makes God sick to His stomach. Read Revelation 3:15:17.
5. Paul is teaching against this sort of attitude. One of the evidences of spiritual maturity is the ability to love and respect all those who sincerely know Christ and seek to glorify Him.
6. "*Christ is all, and in all.*"
  - This may be one of the most profound statements in all of God's Word.
  - We have absolutely nothing apart from Christ, yet we have everything when we have Christ!
  - We are all complete in Christ, and we can look beyond earthly differences that separate people and enjoy a spiritual unity in the Lord.