

Colossians 3:5-7

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

When you read today's devotional verses, do you realize you are reading what should be past tense in our lives "***in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.***"? It's speaking of things we used to do and the way we used to live. Didn't we all commit "***fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.***" Before we came to Jesus?

I don't know about you, but I read these things and think that everyone of them, and even more, applied to how I used to live. But once again, if you are a believer, then these should all be past tense, things that we use to do, and they were a part of the life that we used to live. But the bible says, "***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.***" 2 Corinthians 5:17

"***Old things*** (past tense) ***have past away***", and "***all things have become new***" which is present tense. So, how do we know if the "***old things have passed away***" in our life and that "***all things have become new***"? Simply by continuing to read on here in Colossians where Paul tells us those new things that we should be experiencing in our lives, because we have gotten rid of these old things.

† **Colossians 3:8-10** ***But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.***

Once again, Paul is telling us those things we should have stopped doing or "***put off***" since we gave our life to Jesus Christ, as well as no longer living the life that we used to live. I would encourage you to read through these things several times and pray over them and ask yourself, "***Have I put off those things, and have I stopped doing them, and has my life changed from being like that to being a new creation in Christ Jesus?***" If not, then ask the Lord to help you put off those things you are still clinging to.

But Paul did not only tell us the things that we should have stopped doing or "***put off***". But he also tells us the things that we should be doing to replace them with or "***put on***".

† **Colossians 3:12-14** ***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, if anyone has a complaint against 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.

Paul tells us what to “**put on**”, or the things we should now be doing, and the life we should now be living as Christians, as new creations in Christ Jesus. “**put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against 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.**”

You may read that list and think, “*Wow, I’m not sure I am doing all those things, and I don’t think I can.*” Neither can I, at least not under my own strength. But we all can under the power of the Holy Spirit. We know this because the bible tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is:

† **Galatians 5:22-25** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

And by being filled with the Holy Spirit, Paul tells us the results, which we should all desire to have everyday.

† **Colossians 3:15-17** *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*