

Text: Col. 3:9–10 “Do not lie to each other, since you have ***taken off*** your old self with its practices and have ***put on*** the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

Intro: As we would take off and put on clothing, Paul uses a very common everyday imagery to illustrate our putting off the old sinful nature and putting on the new transformed nature.

—“***you have taken off your old self with its practices***” (**Col. 3:9**)

—Other imagery Paul develops is the death of the old self—**Rom. 6:6** “For we know that our ***old self was crucified with him*** so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.”

—**Col. 3:3** “***For you died***, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”

—The “***old self***” is the sinful nature we inherited from Adam by the simple fact of human birth—**Rom. 5:19** “For just as through the disobedience of the one man ***the many were made sinners...***”

—Paul wrote **Rom. 5:18** “Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men...”

—This is a point in which many get off track—**Universalism**—the doctrine that just as Adam’s disobedience caused all to die, Christ’s obedience will cause all to live.

—There is also a modified universalism: “***All are saved except those who intentionally reject Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.***”—salvation is ours to lose.

—Those who have “***taken off your old self***” are those who—“...***receive*** God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.” (**Rom. 5:17**)

—How we receive God’s grace—**Rom. 10:9-10** “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

—Then we actively set our minds on the things of the Spirit and—“...live according to the Spirit, *and* the things of the Spirit.” (*Rom. 8:5*)

—First century philosophers such as Philo condemned those whose minds were taken up with the matters of the body and its pleasures. (Philo was a first-century Jewish philosopher who lived in Alexandria Egypt)

—For Paul it was not self-effort but God’s Spirit that enables this new framework of life.

—As believers we find two frameworks of thought within, we still have the framework that calls for us to please the flesh, to satisfy every desire the body demands.

—But we also have the framework of the Spirit that calls for us to satisfy the life of righteousness.

—It is important for us to decide which will control our lives—*Rom. 8:6*
“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

—There is war within but the *Good News* is “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” (*Rom. 8:1*)

—Paul tells us that this is not self-effort but by faith we “have put on the new self, which is being *renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*” (*Col. 3:10*)

—“*you....have put on the new self*” (*Col. 3:10*)

— Christians have had a radical, life-changing experience in which they have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self.

—This is what Jesus meant—*John 3:3* “In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

—“*born again*” is literally “*born from above*” (Greek ἀνωθεν anōthen)

—To put on the new we must have the transformational experience of new birth.

—The “**new self**“ is “**being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.**”
(Col. 3:10)

—2Cor. 4:16 “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly **we are being renewed day by day.**”

—“**New**” from the Greek νέος neos means young, youthful, newly made; “**born from above**”.

—We are like a clean slate on the law of God which can be written.

—But it is not instantaneous but progressive change; Paul uses the verbal form reflecting the progress of change “**being renewed**“ to look more and more like our “**Creator**”.

—Paul takes us back to the newly created Adam, perfect, sinless, with all potential before him.

—**Practical Application**

—Col. 3:9 “**Do not lie to each other**, since you have taken off your old self with its practices”

—We do not know why Paul gives this command.

—As evidence of the “**new self**” only truth should flow from our mouths; one of the early revelations of the nature of God is given in—Num. 23:19 “God is not a man, that He should lie...”

—The phrase “**since you have taken off**” (v. 9) indicates a definite moment in the believer’s life when decisive action has been taken to change!

—Colossians 3:12–13 “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**”

—Since we have removed the old worn out garments, this is what the new ones look like; he writes “**clothe yourselves with**” garments that reflect the new life in Christ.

—“**Forgive whatever grievances**” and the basis of our forgiving is the fact that Jesus forgave us.

—**Forgiving is critical**—**Matthew 18:34–35** “And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you **if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.**”

—Jesus insisted that His servants be characterized by forgiveness.

—The one great ruling factor is **love**—**Col. 3:14** “And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

—**Gal. 5:22** “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.”

—Love is the head of all of the spiritual fruit from which all others grow.