

CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

PUT ON THE NEW MAN

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SERIES

In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on the sanctification and renewal of man.

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City of ^{the} Living God



“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, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. (Col. 3:9-11).

The new life of a new believer in Christ is profoundly improved and according to Scripture is restored to the original image that God created in man and woman. The baptism of the Spirit renews that image by changing the results of the fallen broken image of man to a new man that is renewed. The byproduct of that restoring of the image is what the Bible calls the Fruit of the Spirit.

That is why there is such a dramatic change in the way a new believer lives compared to his/her old ways. The Apostle Paul refers to the former way of life as our “old man.” The old man, in his furthest distortion of the original image, results in the complete destruction of himself and others. Thank God for this new life! The longer we live for God, the more there will be a change from that past life.

THE OLD MAN

The Bible teaches us that all of mankind started with the creation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden at the beginning of creation. Man and woman were both made in the image of God in a perfect state. God did not make them evil or with the inclination to be evil. They were made with the free will to choose to love and obey God. Love to be real love has to have the choice and decision to choose it.

Genesis 1:27-28

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”.

However, what does it mean when it says in the Scriptures that they were “made in the image of God”?

We know that “dominion” over all of creation was one of the characteristics. God commanded them to have dominion after the pronouncement of being made in the image of God. This dominion included characteristics that provided man and women with this power to dominate. When man and woman fell, their image became distorted and destructive tendencies entered in. These destructive tendencies greatly inhibited the dominion that was supposed to be in their lives.

Notice that the Apostle Paul describes the image of man before it is restored as one that produces destructive behaviors instead of healthy behaviors.

Colossians 3:5-8

“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.

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ”

These are only some of the characteristics of the old man which is the byproduct of fallen man. The characteristics of the fallen man are destructive not only to himself, but many times to others. All of the works of the flesh are byproducts of this fallen nature. So, it was by man’s sin in the garden that this image was broken and passed to all others.

Romans 5:12

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.”

We can see the results of these destructive behaviors that keep man and woman from having true dominion in their lives. This is what keeps them from living a successful life.

There are so many examples of the behaviors of fallen men. Notice how counterproductive they are to the image that God created in people of true dominion. It’s easy to see how these behaviors produce weakness instead of dominion in our lives. Destructive behaviors wreak havoc not only on our lives but on others that we love.

Drugs	Alcohol	Thievery	Violence	Division
Slander	Pride	Gossip	Bitterness	Manipulation
Divorce	Deceit	Greed	Anarchy	Unforgiveness
Revenge	Adultery	Blackmail	Fornication	Pornography

THE NEW MAN

With the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we are transformed and the image that was originally created in Adam and Eve are restored.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18

“Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

Notice that the Apostle Paul states that it is by the Spirit of the Lord that our image is transformed. That is why we are said to have been born again or renewed by his Spirit. Our old behaviors are replaced with new behaviors.

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

The former destructive list of behaviors are replaced with a completely new man. It does not mean we do not have temptations or tendencies to go back to the old man. It does mean that we now have the power to live above sin if we are led by the Spirit. That is why the apostle tells the Colossian saints to put off the “old man” and to put on the “new man.”

2 Corinthians 3:16-18

“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,”

People will notice a difference in you. As you walk with God, you will notice that God starts to change the very destructive behaviors that once defined you. Oftentimes people say that the life of a Christian is hard. I beg to differ. The life of an unbeliever is hard.

Proverbs 13:15

“Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.”

I am not saying it is not hard to live for God, but I am saying it is a lot harder not living for God. Thank God for true dominion in our lives when we serve Him!

Notice some of the list that the apostle states is the results of putting on the new man.

Colossians 3:12-13

“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.”

This is just part of the list of behaviors. All of these produce the opposite of the old man. They lead to productive, healthy relationships, and dominion in our lives.

Colossians 3:14

“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”

This new man produces “the peace of God” which “rules” or has dominion in our hearts. This is how our image is renewed in the new believer. Notice that this list of behaviors are the complete opposite of the list of the old man.

Sobriety	Abstinence	Honesty	Peace	Unity
Discretion	Humility	Praise	Joy	Authenticity
Reconcile	Truthful	Charity	Lawfulness	Forgiveness

Mercy	Fidelity	Integrity	Chastity	Modesty
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Sanctification is a process. It does not mean that we become perfect in all of our ways. However, it does mean that after the baptism of the Spirit great changes begin on our lives. If we continue to walk in God's ways, we will see more changes. As time goes on, the way of the former life is a dramatic difference from the present. That is why oftentimes people cannot picture the mature saint as what he or she was prior to living for God.

So how do I allow God to continue the work of renewal in my life?

Since the renewal of the image begins with the Spirit of God entering the believer, the continual change will take place as you are led by His Spirit. So be faithful to God in your church attendance since that is where the renewing takes place while you are worshipping in the Spirit. Continue to allow God to mold and shape you as you are renewed in the Spirit. Be teachable and adaptive to His Word.

Last of all, make it a habit to pray every day in the morning for God to order your steps for the day, to protect you from the former habits of life, and to empower you in the Spirit to live a productive overcoming life. Oftentimes, I pray specifically for God to protect me from the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh and the pride of life.

Thank God for the power to have dominion in our lives!

For more Information
Paul Baumeister
P.O. 2366, Elk Grove, CA 95759

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