



STACEY WEEKS

A SHORT STUDY ON COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

PUTTING ON
LOVE

The perfect bond of unity

Colossians 3:1-17 NASB
Do you look like Jesus?

My Dad once offered me this advice. He said, “Don’t dress for the job you have, dress for the job you want.” I hit the workforce dressed in attire that reflected who I wanted to become, and I was motivated to act accordingly. I went above and beyond entry-level responsibilities, working my way into a desired position.¹

1. Tell about a time you put on specific behaviours or characteristics to achieve a desired result. It could have been at an interview, on a date, meeting your soon-to-be- in-laws.

Seeking the Lord

2. If/then combinations are conditional statements. For example, *if* you do A, *then* B will happen. Or, *if* you believe A, *then* you should do B. Find the if/then in verses Col 3:1-4 and answer the following questions: (Hint, sometimes *then* is implied.)

If you do or believe “A”	Then you should do “B” or “B” will happen
‘If’ what (v1)?	Then you should... (v1b-2)
Why should you do it (v3-4)?	

3. Now take a closer look at the time word, “then” (v4).

What will happen <i>then</i> (4b)?	
When will it happen (4a)?	
How does this impact you <i>now</i>?	

Setting Aside the Old

4. Paul compares the old self and the new self in verses 5-11. Make a list of the dead traits of our old self and the actions we are to put aside and then find synonyms for each word using a dictionary or the internet.

Pauls’ Word for the old self/dead traits	Synonyms

5. Considering the list of synonyms, what traits of the ‘old self’ do you still need to put aside? Spend some time in prayer with the Lord about this.

b) How does Galatians 5:16, 22-25 illustrate the ways we are to put sins aside?

Galatians 5:16, “¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”

Galatians 5:22-25, “²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who [k] belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also [l] walk by the Spirit.”

c) What actions can you take to begin pursuing such change? Read Acts 2:38 for insight.

Acts 2:38, “Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

6. Paul uses the word renew in verse 10. He writes of the ‘new self’ that is “*being renewed*.” ‘Being renewed’ is a verb in the passive voice, meaning the subject (you) is receiving the action (of being renewed). What are the implications of this for the believer?

7. Paul's instructions to "put on" in verses 12-14 are commands in the present tense. What are we to put on, what are our responsibilities of this present tense command, and why should we obey it?

After Paul lists the sins that bring the wrath of God (v5-6) he brings good news for those chosen, holy and beloved (v12). As a daughter of God, you can dress like the woman He declares you to be and put on compassion, kindness, and meekness. You can take off slander, lies, and obscene talk and put on humility, honesty, and patience only because Jesus committed the greatest act of "putting on love." Jesus put on our sins and took them to the cross in a supreme act of sacrificial love that binds the repentant heart to God forever.

8. Read 1 John 3:16. How does the subject of this verse illustrate "putting on love?"

1 John 3:16, "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

9. Paul instructs our behaviour after we 'put on' the traits commanded in verse 12. In verse 13, he uses two verbs, bearing and forgiving. These verbs end in 'ing' and are ongoing actions. How is our understanding of Paul's instructions impacted by the idea of 'bearing' and 'forgiving' being ongoing actions that continue *after* we have put on compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience?

Verse 15 and 16 begin with the words “Let the” indicating that we have a responsibility in allowing God to rule our hearts in thankfulness and a responsibility to be proactive in meditating on the Word of God so it can dwell in us richly. Just like we actively ‘put on the new self’ we must ‘let the peace of Christ rule in our heart’ (v15). We must be thankful (v15). We must let the Word of God dwell within richly (v16), and we must do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (v17).

10. How might your relationships suffer if you refuse to “let the” Word of God change you?
- b) What specific steps could you take this week to actively ‘put on’ the new self as described in Colossians 3?
- c) What might it look like for you to embrace the “let the” commands in verse 15-16?
11. Verse 17 ends with a command to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus. What responsibilities do you need to start completing in the name of the Lord Jesus? For example, do you need to begin studying in the name of the Lord Jesus? Working in the name of the Lord Jesus? Parenting in the name of the Lord Jesus? Maintain your home, health, and meet your responsibilities in the name of the Lord Jesus?

You fill in the blank: Lord, I want to begin to _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Who will hold you accountable for growth in this area?

Remember: *It is only when the power of the Holy Spirit is alive and at work in you through the surrendering your willing heart that you can put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of our Creator.*

ⁱ Weeks, Stacey. “Dress For the Life You Want.” *Women-together Leadership Blog*. May 4th, 2017. Accessed March 16, 2019. <https://women-together.org/dress-for-the-job-you-want/>