

**“JESUS CHRIST:
SUPREME AND SUFFICIENT”**

The Book of Colossians

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. **Colossians 1:27**

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. **Colossians 2:9–10**

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:16–17

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13–14

Emphasis of Colossians chapter 3-

**How do I live with Jesus as the center of my life,
when heaven seems far away?**

Two extremes we tend to see-saw between...

- 1. Living with such a heavenly mindset we are
no earthly good.**
- 2. Living with such a worldly mindset that we
ignore heavenly realities.**

Colossians 3:1-11

Main Point:

God calls his followers to put on heavenly clothes (actions), and burn (or kill) the earthly ones, since they are in union with Christ: citizens of heaven living on earth.

**But that is not the way you learned Christ!—
assuming that you have heard about him and were
taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,
to put off your old self, which belongs to your
former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful
desires,
and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,
and to put on the new self, created after the
likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.**

Ephesians 4:20-24

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1–2

Colossians 3:1-11

Three Elements of putting on our heavenly clothing and burning our old clothes:

- 1. Mindset**
- 2. Motivation**
- 3. Action**

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:1–4

The Mindset of our heavenly clothing:

1. I am a new person in union with Christ

“Believers should not look at themselves as ‘slaves to sin’ or as ‘old selves’, nor as being partly ‘old selves’ and partly ‘new selves’ but as THOSE WHO ARE NEW PERSONS in Christ. Christians therefore see themselves as genuinely new, although not yet totally new.”

Anthony Hoekema- Made in God's Image

The Mindset of our heavenly clothing:

2. I will look at present realities through the lens of eternity.

“Seek the things that are above...”

“Set your mind on things that are above...”

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

1 John 3:2-3

The Motivation of our heavenly clothing:

1. **My old self has been buried with Christ.**

having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. **Colossians 2:12**

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **Galatians 2:20**

The Motivation of our heavenly clothing:

2. These sins have caused destruction and hasten God's wrath!

On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. **Colossians 3:6-7**

The **Actions** of putting on our heavenly clothing:

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Colossians 3:5

[These are sins of idolatry, of disordered love.]

Putting to death covetousness:

- 1. Identify the object or person you are coveting.**
- 2. Ask God to reveal the reason why you desire that object so much. (status, approval, pride, insecurity, pleasure)**
- 3. Identify why that reason is sinful and repent of it.**
- 4. Ask Forgiveness from God & Express your love for Christ**
- 5. Actively replace that desire by “storing up treasures in heaven”.**

Putting to death impurity:

- 1. Honestly evaluate the level of impurity in your mind's diet. (TV, internet shows, blogs, books, music, restaurants)**
- 2. Ask- Would these things be pleasing to Jesus? Do they build up human dignity?**
- 3. Ask God to reveal- why do I enjoy focusing on this impurity?**
- 4. Repent of that disordered love/enjoyment.**
- 5. Ask forgiveness & reaffirm the character of Christ.**
- 6. Focus on Philippians 4:8.**

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:8

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

James 4:1–3

Colossians 3:1-11

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- 3. Action**