

**Devotional    Putting on the New Self    August 21, 2022**

**Monday**

Read Colossians 3-1-11

Something that can help you keep yourself pointed to Christ is to take as little as a minute a few times a day to check-in with yourself and see how you are directing yourself throughout the day. Consciously considering where you are pointed really helps you be pointed that way.

So, pick a few times that make sense to you and check-in with yourself. Perhaps it is on the way to work, at lunch, and on your way home from work. Adapt for your situation. On your way to work, ask yourself where you want to be facing between now and lunch. How will you live that? At lunch, do the same thing. On your transition between work life and family life, where do you need to be facing? How will you live that?

And remember that Christ is renewing your new self day by day, moment by moment. If you got off track in the morning, allow Christ to put you back on track for the afternoon. Ask him. Seek it. Doing these kinds of check-ins will give your reminders of the new self. They will help you remember who you really are: a new creation in Christ with a new self.

**Tuesday**

Read Colossians 3-1-11

How many parts have to change on a bike before you consider it a new bike?

What about yourself? How many things would need to change before you were a different person?

In your profession of Jesus as Lord and Savior and your baptism, you have died to the power of sin and death and have been raised with Christ.

Your identity has totally changed. You were a sinner who was sometimes saintly. Now you are a saint who sometimes sins. The trajectory of your life is different. And when you choose where to set your mind, Paul says to set it in line with your new self, not your old self.

What do you want to give God praise for today in your new self?

**Wednesday**

Read John 6:51-53, John 10:29, Galatians 2:20

You are inseparably united with Christ.

You are inseparably united to Jesus Christ. This is your new self – Jesus living in you by the Holy Spirit. And not only you but all who follow Jesus as Lord and Savior – we all have unity of the new self. Verse 11 says that in this new self that there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free: but Christ is all, and in all. We could update that a bit with any number of markers: Here there is not American and Mexican, middle class or lower class, black or white, Arab or Asian or European, farmer or stock broker; but Christ is all, and in all.

You have a new self inseparably united to Christ and united with everyone else in Christ and this new self is being renewed in the knowledge of Christ which is in the likeness of God. The new self is a new mind, a new heart, a new spirit which are all oriented/directed to God in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the direction of your life that Jesus has put you on – to look to and live the things of God.

If you don't get this it might explain why you are always trying to prove yourself worthy to God and others. You are trying to earn what Jesus has already given you. It's driving you and Jesus nuts. If you don't get this it might explain why you are such a stickler for rules or customs in your own life and in what you engage with in your life. You are trying to follow the rules to be holy. Jesus has already followed the rules to fulfill all holiness.

Which parts of having a new self do you stumble over in your mind, heart, and spirit? How would you like Jesus to continue to transform you in your knowledge of your new self? Ask him!

### **Thursday**

Read Ephesians 4:22-24

You are given a new self – and the Greek (the original language) makes clear that if you follow Jesus you *already have* this new self – so Paul is not writing to the Colossians to have them not engage in sexual immorality, covetousness, anger, wrath, malice, slander, obscene talk, and lying to prove themselves worthy or earn a new self. He says they need to stop doing those things because it is contrary to the new self they have been given by Jesus.

The new self is oriented to God, why try to turn back towards the things that aren't of God?

Chasing after the old ways blocks your renewal in Christ. So, living for Christ in the new self is not about trying to prove yourself or obey all the rules, it is more about living as you have been designed and not running back to the old, broken design. Set your mind on the things above.

### **Friday**

Each week in 2022, we are praying for the most dangerous places to be a follower of Jesus. Please spend today in prayer for Bangladesh and the Christians in Bangladesh. You can get more

info, and this info comes from, here:

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/>

What is life like for Christians in Bangladesh?

Bangladeshi society is growing increasingly Islamic, with the government doing more to appease concerns from Muslim extremists. Evangelistic churches—many of them Pentecostal—that work among the Muslim majority face the most persecution, but even historical churches are increasingly faced with attacks and death threats. Converts from a Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or an ethnic/ tribal background suffer the most. They often gather in small house churches or secret groups due to fear of attack.

Areas for prayer:

- Pray for trainings for Christians from different tribes and cultures, that they would be equipped to take back what they have learned to strengthen their communities.
- Pray for Christians who are discriminated against in government aid distributions during COVID-19 and cyclone relief.
- Pray for the small group of Rohingya Christians, as they seek to follow Jesus in the refugee camps in Bangladesh.