

Reteaching/Study Guide from Lakeside's Online Worship
Sunday, October 25, 2020, Sermon by Dr. Greg Corbin, Senior Pastor
"Made New: Part 1" –Colossians 3:5-11

*"⁵Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature . . . ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator."
Colossians 3:5 & 9-10 Christian Standard Bible*

The wonderful news of the Gospel is that God has loved us as we are and at the cost of His Son has given us salvation as a gift. "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Salvation is fully God's initiative and action on our behalf; we do and can do nothing to contribute to it: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Even our response of faith is not a work on our part; it is only the humble posture by which we receive God's gift. Christ saved us just as we were apart from any effort of our own. He did not, however, save us to leave us as we were. **Salvation is free; growth is expected.** Jesus' gracious and complete work of salvation sets in motion a lifetime of continual spiritual maturity by which **we are transformed (made new) in our character after the image of our Creator.** Jesus saved us so that we should become like Him. The "ten-pound" word sometimes used for this process of **being made new** is "**sanctification.**" While salvation requires no work on our part, sanctification is a partnership that requires our active obedience to God's Word in concert with the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. **Being made new in Christ, requires some things from us.**

Being made new means we must FIGHT some sins to the death (Colossians 3:5-7). Without any qualification, Paul delineated several categories of sin that we must deliberately and decisively address: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed. All of these arise from the uncontrolled desire for sex and money that is so prevalent in our culture. We must actively fight them to the death. God's Word gives us **three keys to fight sin in our lives.** First, **Be SPIRITUAL (Galatians 5:16-17).** Pray and read the Bible regularly and be responsive and obedient to the conviction of the Holy Spirit in your life. Second, **Be RESPONSIBLE (Romans 6:1-4).** Take responsibility for your actions in keeping with the priceless salvation God has given to you: "We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?" Third, **Be ACCOUNTABLE (Ecclesiastes 4:12).** Find and confide in other believers who will pray for you and hold you accountable for growing in Christ.

Being made new means we PUT AWAY other sins (Colossians 3:8-9). Paul went on to list another set of sins that are just as wrong as those in the first list but are unfortunately too often tolerated or excused among good "church-going" people: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. Anger, wrath, and malice have to do with the way we mistreat people and with the ill feelings we often harbor toward one another. Slander and filthy language have to do with the way we wrongly speak to and about one another. These things must be put off as part of our old self just as surely as sexual immorality and greed. In place of these sins, we are to put on Christlikeness. **Being made new means we PUT ON truth and righteousness (Colossians 3:10-11).** In place of anger, wrath, and slander, we live out forgiveness and love in accordance with God's Word.

Being made new in Christ requires our daily active obedience for the duration of our lives on this earth. **Change always involves a CONSCIOUS DECISION.** It was a decision we made when we received God's gift of salvation. It is a decision we must faithfully and intentionally live out each day. **Change**

always involves a CONTINUAL PROCESS. Being “made new” is a long-term work. It’s not completed until we stand with Christ in glory.

To reflect further about being Made New in Christ, read 2 Corinthians 5, Ephesians 4, and Galatians 5.

Questions/Actions for Reflection/Discussion/Application

With which of the sins listed in today’s text do you struggle most? Where do you need to grow?

Do you have someone who will pray with you and hold you accountable for being made new?

Do you have a plan that you follow to pray and read the Bible regularly?

How does the prospect of being made new bring you hope?

You’re in My Prayers,

Stacey