

Message Five

**Putting Off the Old Man and Putting On the New Man**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 2:15; 4:22-24

- I. Our putting off of the old man and our putting on of the new man is a manifestation of our having learned Christ—Eph. 4:20-24:**
  - A. To put off the old man is to put off the old way of life, the former way of living, our old community life—v. 22.
  - B. To put on the new man means to have the church life, which is the new life of the new mankind created by Christ in Himself; corporately we need to put on the church life as a new humanity—2:15; 4:24.
  - C. If we would be the one new man, we must put off the community life of the old man and put on the community life of the new man—cf. Acts 2:42-47.
- II. In every country of the world and among every people there is a characteristic manner of life; many saints in the Lord's recovery still hold on to their former manner of life:**
  - A. If we truly desire to be renewed, we need to put off the former manner of life, which involves ordinances and our way of living—Eph. 2:15; 4:24.
  - B. In the new man there is no possibility for any natural person of any nationality or culture to exist, because the former manner of life found among these peoples has been put away—Col. 3:10-11:
    1. In order to have the church life, people from different cultures and countries have to put off the old man embodied in their former manner of life; in the church life there is room only for Christ—v. 11.
    2. All the various manners of life and the differences among the peoples are the heritage of Babel, but on the cross Christ slew all these differences in order to produce the one new man—Eph. 2:14-15.
    3. We should not justify our manner of life or glory in it; every way of life involves ordinances and must be put off.
- III. The former manner of life includes everything related to us: what we are, what we have, our family life, and our social life:**
  - A. We must put off what we are, what we have, and what we do; we must put off our very way of living:
    1. This means that what we are, what we have, and what we do make the church life an impossibility; if we continue to live according to the old man, the church life will be seriously damaged, even terminated.
    2. Those who are released from the old man are very flexible; Paul could be all things to all men because he had put aside his old man—1 Cor. 9:22.
  - B. If we put off the old man with its former manner of life, we shall have a marvelous church life, a church life that will be a miniature of the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth; in such a church life it is impossible to have division—cf. Col. 3:12-15.
- IV. Whenever we return to the old manner of life, we shall spontaneously sense that we are darkened within and estranged from God's life:**

- A. Whenever we live according to our old community life, there is vanity, darkness, estrangement, ignorance, and hardness within us.
  - B. If we persist in living according to the former manner of life, we shall eventually become calloused and insensitive; we may even cease from feeling because we do not care for our conscience—Eph. 4:17-19.
- V. When we were regenerated, this new man was put into, or born into, our spirit (cf. 2:22); when we believed in the Lord Jesus, the life-giving Spirit came into our spirit, bringing with Him the new man as a finished product:**
- A. The addition of the Spirit and the divine life to our spirit produced a new being, the new man—cf. 2 Cor. 4:16; Eph. 3:16.
  - B. The new man is in our spirit, and the Spirit witnesses with our spirit—Rom. 8:16.
  - C. The way to put on the new man is for our spirit (which is mingled with the Spirit), in which are found God, God's dwelling place, and the new man, to become the spirit of our mind.
- VI. To be renewed in the spirit of our mind is the way to put on the new man—Eph. 4:23:**
- A. For the spirit to become the spirit of our mind means that the spirit directs, controls, dominates, and possesses our mind; when the spirit directs our mind, it governs our whole being—cf. Rom. 8:6; 1 Cor. 2:15-16:
  - B. The new man must spread into and saturate every part of our being; the spreading of the new man is both the putting on of the new man and the renewing.
- VII. The new man is the practical church life, which is Christ as the life-giving Spirit mingled with our spirit in a corporate way:**
- A. To put on the church life as the new man is to put on this entity produced by the mingling of the divine Spirit with the human spirit.
  - B. Our daily living should be part of the church life, part of the new man; otherwise, we will grieve the Spirit—Eph. 4:30:
    1. Not caring for the church life is one of the main ways we grieve the Spirit.
    2. By not attending the church meetings and by refusing to function in the meetings, we may grieve and quench the Spirit—Heb. 10:25; 1 Thes. 5:19.
  - C. We put on the church life as the new man by being filled in spirit to overflow with speaking, singing, praising, and submitting—Eph. 5:18-21.
  - D. We put on the church life as the new man by the washing of the water in the word—v. 26.
- VIII. The growth in Christ in Ephesians 4:15 is equal to the putting on of the new man in verse 24; the more we grow up into Christ in all things, the more we put on the new man—cf. v. 13.**