



Hit ^{The} *Mark*

THE FASTEST HOUR OF THE WEEK

KEYWORD

HANDOUT



Keyword: NEW

Memory Text

“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”

Colossians 3:14 (NKJV)

NEW: A life transformed by union with Christ, where the old nature is surrendered and a renewed heart begins to reflect His character, desires, and priorities

Introduction

Many people believe the Christian life is about becoming a better version of who they already are. But the gospel teaches something far deeper. Christ does not simply improve our old life. He gives us a **new one**.

In Colossians 3, Paul describes what it means to live this new life with Christ. The believer is not only forgiven but transformed. The old self is put away, the new man is put on, and the character of Christ begins to shape every relationship, attitude, and action.

This new life is not produced by human effort alone. It begins when we are spiritually reborn and united with Christ. From that moment forward, the believer learns daily how to live out what God has already begun within.

Raised to a New Life

Colossians 3:1–4

“If then you were raised with Christ...”

Paul begins with position before practice.

Believers are:

- Raised with Christ

- Hidden with Christ
- Destined to appear with Christ in glory

Because our life is now connected with heaven, Paul urges us:

“Set your mind on things above.”

Ending the Old Life

Colossians 3:5–7

Because we are raised with Christ, Paul says:

“Put to death therefore...”

The new life requires putting away what belonged to the old life.

Sinful patterns must not be allowed to remain.

The Christian life involves **intentional separation from earthliness.**

The Old Self vs The New Man

Colossians 3:8–11

Paul describes what must be removed:

- Anger
- Wrath
- Malice
- Slander
- Abusive speech
- Lying

Why?

Because believers have:

“Put off the old man with his deeds and put on the new man.”

The new life restores the image of Christ in the believer.

Paul also removes divisions that once defined people:

“There is neither Greek nor Jew... slave nor free; but Christ is all, and in all.”

The new life creates a **new community centered on Christ.**

The Character of the New Life

Colossians 3:12–15

Paul now describes what believers are to “put on”:

- Tender mercies
- Kindness
- Humility
- Meekness
- Longsuffering
- Forgiveness

These qualities reflect the **character of Christ Himself.**

Then Paul reaches the climax:

“Above all these things put on love.”

Love binds every other virtue together. Love becomes the identifying mark of the new life.

Jesus said: “A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

John 13:34

The Atmosphere of the New Life

Colossians 3:16–17

Paul then describes what should shape the believer's life:

- Let the **peace of Christ rule** in your heart
- Let the **word of Christ dwell richly** in you
- Teach and encourage one another through worship and song

The new life is not lived in isolation. It flourishes within a **community centered on Christ**.

How Does One Become a New Man?

Jesus answered this clearly:

“Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:3

The new life begins with **spiritual rebirth**. Only Christ can create a new heart.

True / Somewhat True / False

Stopping sinful practices is not enough in order to remain a new man in Christ.

External reform alone does not make someone new.

True transformation begins within.

The new man won't stay a new man without our efforts.

The new life begins by grace, but it must be **nurtured daily through surrender and dependence on Christ**.

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to truly be a **new person in Christ**?
 - What is the difference between **external reform** and **internal transformation**?
 - Why does Paul emphasize **love** as the defining mark of the new life?
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Personal Reflection

What is the most powerful evidence a person can give that they have been born again and are a new man in Christ?

What is **your Jesus example** this week?

From Lesson to Life

Think

What truth about your new identity in Christ must you believe more deeply?

Shift

What attitude or habit from the “old self” must you surrender?

Act

What specific action this week will reflect the new life Christ has given you?

Our Takeaway

The Christian life is not about trying harder to fix the old self. It is about living from the new life Christ has already given. When we are united with Him, the old man no longer defines us. A new heart, new desires, and a new direction begin to take shape.

Paul reminds us that this new life will show itself most clearly in our relationships. Compassion, kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness, and above all, love are the evidence that Christ is truly living within us.

To live with Christ is to live differently. As His peace rules our hearts and His word dwells richly in us, our lives begin to reflect the character of the One who made us new.

The question is not whether Christ has the power to make us new. The question is whether we will choose each day to live as the new people He has created us to be.

