

## Put on the New Man

### Scripture

“This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph 4:17-24 NKJV).

### Devotion

The old man, that one you were before Christ, is set in contrast to the new man. The main difference between the two is the ability to see. The old man’s heart was blind, past feeling, given over to lewdness.

The new man sees truth, and now knows the evils of sin. Sin is no longer the task master; he is now dead to sin. “Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Ro 6:11 NKJV).

However, believers are called to put on the new man. We are not to walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk. This means diligence must be given to learn Christ’s ways.

On more than one occasion, I have heard men say God has not delivered them from some particular sin. It sounds like they expect God to do all the work; that they have no need to mortify the flesh. They really are blaming God for their sinful state.

The Bible is clear that sin originates in us; “. . . each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death” (Jas 1:14-15 NKJV).

If you are struggling with sin, then you are choosing to sin. You must repent and choose to walk circumspectly. When you have purposed to do that, then God will strengthen your inner man (Eph. 3:16). “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh” (Gal. 5:16 NKJV).

Now, I know as well as you do, walking in the Spirit is a life-long battle. “For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish” (Gal. 5:17 NKJV).

Therefore, do not be discouraged or give up and blame God for your failings. Instead, recognize you are in a battle and strategize. Know that to put off the old man you must put on the new man in true righteousness and holiness. Seek the Lord. “Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.” (Isa 55:6-7 NKJV)

