

Putting on the New Man

Scripture

“Therefore, as [the] elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also [must do]. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And [whatever] you do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” (Col 3:12-17 NKJV)

Devotion

Paul says, “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new [man] who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,” (Col 3:9-10 NKJV) He then gives some more details about putting on the new man in the above verses.

A number of qualities are listed in these verses the chief being love. However, we should take note of the part that gives some specificity as to how this is accomplished. Notice he says, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

The Word of God is the catalyst that solidifies all the other qualities. Will you be kind, humble, longsuffering, forgiving, and loving without constant exposure to the holy writ? I think not. David said, “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!” (Ps 119:11 NKJV) It is the Word of God that plows the deep recesses of our hearts exposing them to truth. Sharper than any tow-edged sword, it reveals our waywardness and provokes true repentance.

“Blessed [is] the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.” (Ps 1:1-3 NKJV)

Take a few minutes and meditate upon His Word today. Let it dwell in you richly. Don't stifle it through neglect.