

# THE PREMINENCE OF CHRIST

Lesson 10: Living as New Men

*Colossians 3:5–11*

When we come to faith in Jesus Christ, we're not merely sinners who have been forgiven, but we become new creatures or new men in Christ.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” *2 Corinthians 5:17*

In order to understand what happens when we become new creations in Christ, we must maintain a distinction between our identity (an old man or a new man) and our natures (an old sin nature and a new nature).

- I. **Depriving our fallen natures:** We are to deprive our fallen natures of the opportunity to incite moral impurity in our lives (*Colossians 3:5*).

*How?* We suspend the power of our sinful natures by yielding ourselves to the Holy Spirit as instruments of righteousness (*cp. Romans 6:12–13*).

- II. **Experiencing dire consequences:** Failure to suspend the domination of indwelling sin will cause God to discipline us by turning us over to the free-fall experience of impurity (*Colossians 3:6–7*).

God's discipline against intentional sin is often to turn us over to our own choice to live out of our fallen natures and suffer the unrestricted experience and consequences of that sin (*cp. Romans 1:18–32*).

- III. **Rooting out anger:** We are to root out our internal hostility that breeds verbal assaults against others (*Colossians 3:8*).

*How?* We are to deal with the sources of our anger by processing them through the filter of Scripture and then placing them under the lordship of Jesus Christ (*cp. 2 Corinthians 10:4–6*).

- IV. **Abandoning the practice of lying:** We are to stop lying to each other, because it is a trait of the old man and contrary to the Savior's work of removing the distinctions that divide us from one another (*Colossians 3:9–11*).

Becoming a new man in Christ doesn't mean we come pre-packaged with spiritual maturity, because it is an on-going process.