

## Irvine Young People

### The All-inclusive, Extensive Christ Replacing Culture for the One New Man

#### Week 3

### The Constituent of the One New Man— the All-inclusive, Extensive Christ Replacing Culture

#### DAY 2

**Col. 3:10-11** *And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.*

The believers in Colossae replaced Christ, the constituent of the new man, with various aspects of culture. Some treasured philosophy, whereas others treasured religious observances. These things were allowed to come into the church life as substitutes for Christ. But in the new man there is room for nothing other than Christ. In Colossians 3:15 and 16 Paul charges us to let the peace of Christ arbitrate in our hearts....If we allow the peace of Christ to arbitrate in our hearts, this peace will settle all the disputes among us....Just as a referee is needed to settle disputes in a game or contest, so the Colossians needed a referee, an arbitrator, to calm down all the differing opinions....which have their source in our culture.”

**Question:** What was the problem in Colossae? What did Paul exhort the saints to do to deal with it?

#### DAY 1

**Col. 3:11** *Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.*

The source of the trouble among the believers in Colossae was culture, Jewish culture and Greek culture. I believe that all the churches in Asia Minor had been saturated with Jewish culture, particularly with respect to religious observances, and with Greek culture, particularly related to philosophy. At the time of Paul, the culture in the Mediterranean region included three main elements: Jewish religion, Greek philosophy, and Roman politics. Two of these elements—Jewish religion and Greek philosophy—had invaded the church. ...The principle is the same today. Satan, the subtle one, is still using ethics and religion to defraud Christians of the enjoyment of Christ. ...If we get into the depths of the book of Colossians, we shall see that it deals not with sin or with the law, but with man’s culture.

**Question:** How can we infer that culture was the source of trouble among the believers in Colossae?

#### DAY 3

**Col. 3:4** *When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.*

In the geographical region between Rome and Colossae were many different kinds of people. However, in this region near the Mediterranean, the new man had come into being and was living in a practical way. Although travel was not convenient, there was considerable traffic among the churches. There is a lesson for us here. Although we enjoy all the modern conveniences and means of transportation, there may not be as much traffic among the churches today as there was at the time of Paul....This new man who was living on earth in a practical way was constituted of those who according to culture and social status were Greeks, Jews, circumcision, uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slaves, and free men. However,...the actual constituent of the new man is Christ and Christ alone. Because Christ is the unique constituent of the new man, there should be no differences among the believers who are part of this new man.

**Question:** How was the new man living on earth in a practical way in the area near the Mediterranean?

**DAY 4**

**Col. 4:16** ...When this letter is read among you, cause that it be read in the church of the Laodiceans also, and that you also read the one from Laodicea.

The existence and living of the new man in a practical way is a matter of tremendous significance....In spite of all the differences among nationalities, races, and classes, there was on earth in practical way the one new man created in Christ Jesus. There were not merely local churches in various cities--there was one new man in a real and practical way. It is shameful for the church in any locality to isolate itself from other churches....Those who insist on this attitude cause the new man to be fragmented, to be broken into pieces....In Paul's heart was not simply a particular local church or a certain saint, but the one new man....If we are conscious of the one new man, we should no longer think that the churches in our country have nothing to do with the churches in other nations. Instead, we shall realize that all the churches are the one new man.

**Question:** What should our attitude be towards other local churches?

**DAY 5**

**Col. 1:27** ...God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

The new man does not come into existence by taking Christians from various countries and bringing them together. That would be a new organization, not the new man. The new man comes into being as we are saturated, filled, and permeated with Christ and replaced by Him through an organic process. The new man is Christ in all the saints permeating us and replacing us until all natural distinctions have been eliminated and everyone is constituted of Christ. Perhaps you are wondering how Christ can be all in the new man. For this to be a reality, we must take Christ as our life and live Him, not ourselves. If Christ is the living of all the saints, then only He will be in the new man... All the saints, whatever their nationality may be, will live Christ. Then in a way that is real and practical, Christ will be all the members of the new man.

**Question:** How can Christ be all the members of the new man, in a real and practical way?

**DAY 6**

**Col. 3:10** And have put on the new man, which is bring renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.

This principle of growing unto knowledge applies to our spiritual life. If we seek the things on earth instead of the things above, we shall not have the renewing of the new man. This means that we shall not experience the growth of the new man. It is extremely difficult for the new man to grow as long as we seek earthly things. But when we seek the things above, the new man grows within us. The result of this growth is full knowledge....When we have the revelation of Christ with the adequate experience of Christ, the new man will appear among us in a practical way, and we shall realize the life of the new man. God's goal is to have this one new man, which ultimately will consummate in the New Jerusalem. Therefore, the New Jerusalem will be the final consummation of the one new man.

**Question:** What is the relationship between the one new man and the New Jerusalem?

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Excerpts from: Witness Lee, 2021, *The Holy Word for Morning Revival - The All-inclusive, Extensive Christ Replacing Culture for the One New Man.*