

Are You Living in Your *Old* Body or Your *New* Body?

Ricardo Campos, Teaching Elder Grace Chapel, Orange, CA March 21, 2010

Review:

Col. 1:1–14, Paul and Timothy thank God for the Colossians' fruitful walk. Thus, they pray that God will grant them further understanding of His will so that their walk will reach new heights as they thank God for delivering them from the power of darkness.

Col. 1:15–29, Christ, the Creator and sustainer of the entire universe, reconciled believers to God through His death in order to one day see them stand holy before Him as His Body. However, they must stay grounded in Him so that they will indeed bring glory to His Body.

Col. 2:1–10, Paul wants the Colossians to remain rooted in Christ and not be captivated by the world's empty philosophy because everything they need they already have in Christ, the Possessor of all wisdom and knowledge.

Col. 2:11–23, believers have been permanently united with Christ, the God of the universe. When this happened they were plucked from the world's body of sins and placed into the Body of Christ. This freed them from the world's deadly philosophy which once ruled them. In light of this, they should not go back and submit to man's futile philosophy (the world's dogma), which appears promising, but is of "no value."

I. Introduction

Since we have been so thoroughly stripped of the Old Man (our former position in the world's body of sins) and have been clothed with the New Man (Christ's Body, the Church), we should think Christ's thoughts after Him and put away the Old Man's deeds (sins) because the New Man (where the only thing that matters is Christ) grows according to God's thinking.

II. Since You're Part of Christ's Body, You Should Behave Like it, Especially Since You're Destined for Glory (Col. 3:1–4)

Rather than following after the world's thoughts, the Colossians should be thinking of heavenly things, i.e., God's (Christ's) thoughts after Him. Why? Two reasons: (1) because He and they are One (i.e., He is in heaven and in some sense they are there with Him because they are forever united with Him as His Body, 2:11–13), and (2) because He and they (as Christ's Body) are destined for glory, 1:22, 28; 3:4.

What drives your thinking, Christ's thoughts or the world's?

III. We Must Kill our Former Sinful Behavior (which belongs to our former residence: the Old Man [the World]) Because We Now Reside in the New Man (Christ's Body), who is Renewed According to Christ's Knowledge not the World's (Col. 3:5–11)

The Colossians must not allow the Old Man (their former position in the world, which is where they lived and suffered God's wrath, 3:6–7) to resurrect; they must kill him. Instead of putting on the Old Man again, they should disrobe themselves of his deeds (sins), especially since they've taken him off and put on the New Man (Christ's Body, the Church), who grows according to God's thinking (not the world's), where there are no racial, religious, cultural, or social distinctions. The only thing that matters is that we are one in Christ's Body.

IV. CONCLUSION

We are forever united with the God of the universe; we are His Body. Thus, we should live and breathe according to our Head, Christ. This means that we must put away our former life and its tendencies (sins) because we are now part of the New Man (Christ's Body, the Church), who lives and grows according to God's thinking not the world's and where there are no celebrities but one: Christ.