

Putting off the old man / Putting on the new man

There are a few key points in putting off the old man and putting on the new that I want you to keep in remembrance.

1. The battle takes place in your mind, which is your soul.

Just as God is three and yet one, so man is three and yet one. The highest authority in the Godhead is, God the Father. It is He who is seated on His throne with Jesus at His right hand, the Spirit being before them. So with man, it is your soul that is your highest authority because it is the seat of your will. Whatever you choose with your soul, your spirit (to everlasting life) and your body (to its dismay) will follow.

See Romans 7:14-8:14

I Peter 1:13 (gird up the loins of your mind)

Rom 10:10 (“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness...”). In this instance “heart” refers to your “soul”.

Hebrews 12:3 (“... lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds”)

II Corinthians 4 (Paul talks of his ministry and how he faints not)

You set your affection on things above not on things on the earth. Col. 3:2.

2. The Carnal Mind

- a. Is God’s enemy. Romans 8:7 and Eph. 2:1-3.
- b. Leaning on your own understanding = being carnally minded, which is death.

Proverbs 3:5-7

Romans 8:5-8 & 12-13

Preferring the things of the world (i.e. money, prestige/recognition, “the good life”, etc...) over the things of God (i.e. love, faith, grace, mercy, judgment, truth, etc...) is to be carnally minded. This is one of the reasons why the Scripture teaches that the “love” of money is the root of all evil and those that “will” be rich (does not mean you ever will achieve riches) fall into many hurtful lusts. See I Timothy 6:6-12.

- c. Justifies you in your (1) deeds (think Saul vs. David), (2) unbelief (you follow the counsel of the ungodly and your own understanding over the counsel of God), (3) forwardness (you always have a better way than whoever may be in authority over you – employers, political leaders, husbands/parents, ministers) (4) rebellion (generally expressed in you are right and they are wrong so of course you are not operating in rebellion), (5) anger (think indignation), (6) wrath (think condemnation), (7) malice (wanting bad things to happen to people), (8) highmindedness (so that you cannot honour all men as the Scripture commands), (9) speaks lies to protect himself and make others feel good or to avoid confrontation, (10) etc...
3. Spiritually Minded – you must put this on. Col. 3:10-14. Your default position is your carnal mind.
- a. Believes God unto righteousness

Romans 4 (which builds off Psalm 32:1-2 and Genesis 15:6)

Romans 10:9-10
 - b. Humbleness of mind // goes hand in hand with Submission
 - 1. Honours all men (i.e. looks up to rather than down upon others)
 - 2. Willingly subjects (or yields) to what the Word of God says, which is expressed physically in your subjection to God's authorities in your life – (i.e. ministers, husbands, parents, employers, etc...).
 - 3. Without humbleness of mind you can not be renewed in knowledge after the image of Christ (Col. 3:10) nor be "renewed in the spirit of your mind (Eph. 4:23).
 - c. Meekness // goes hand in hand with Trusting God

If you know, as Paul did, that in his flesh dwelleth no good thing and that your carnal mind is enmity with God, then you will want to flee trusting in yourself and choose rather to trust God for all things.

That is what Moses, Jesus and those who likewise recognize that without God we can do no good thing do.

It is also what enables you to operate in compassion with mercy towards others as you know what manner of man you are yourself.

d. Is not moved by suffering in your flesh. I Peter 4:1, Romans 7:25.

Expresses to others in the form of temperance, patience, kindness, love, truth, etc... (see II Peter 1:5-7, I Corinthians 13 among many scriptures)

4. The Old Man vs. The New Man

Once you get the fact that the battle takes place in your mind and you acknowledge the total depravity of your flesh (i.e. fornication, adultery, lying, deceit, unbelief, rebellion, covetous, etc...) you can put off the old man and put on the new. Again your default position is the old man that is why God commands us to lay that life down and take up the new life we have in Him. See Eph. 4:22-24.

The problem most people face is that you can “see” your “old man”. That can be quite distressing as Paul describes in Romans 7. Most people focus (wrongly) on trying to change their old man. That will never happen. That is why Paul in Romans 7:25 talks of how his flesh shall serve the law of sin, but with his mind, he will serve the law of God (which is to walk by faith in Christ Jesus and operate in His love).

By contrast, you cannot “see” the “new man” because he is created IN Christ Jesus and you cannot see Christ. You have to walk in the new man by faith, faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (which trumps your old man and his nature).

The new man

- (a) Enters into God’s rest, having ceased from his own (dead) works. Hebrews 4. John 15. He can then walk in God’s works (Mark 16:15-20, Eph. 2:10).
- (b) Is clothed in God’s righteousness, recognizing that he has no righteousness of his own. Romans 4 and Phil. 3:9-11.
- (c) Operates in God’s love, God’s mercy, God’s power, God’s grace, God’s judgment, etc...