I. Introduction.


B. God through Paul commands us to put off our old selves and live in new holiness apart from our society. (Romans 1; Hebrews 1:9)

II. We are called to put on the characteristics of the new self. (Colossians 3:12-14)

A. We are to live by God’s standard of integrity. (Ephesians 4: 25, 28)

   1. Put off false hold and put on truth. (Leviticus 19:11; Ephesians 4:25)

   2. We must stop stealing and work with our own hands so that we can share with the needy. (Ephesians 4:28)

B. We are to live by God’s standard of relationships. (Ephesians 4:26, 27, 5:2)

   1. Put off unwholesome talk- that means gossiping, crude jokes, profanity- and speak things that will build other people up. (Ephesians 4:29)

   2. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit by how you handle your interpersonal relationships. Instead, practice compassion and forgiveness in your relationships. (Ephesians 4:30; Genesis 6:5-6; Ephesians 4:32)

   3. Live a life of love and service to other people.

C. We are called to live by God’s standard of moral purity. (Ephesians 5:3-4)

   1. Put off any hint of sexual impurity in thought, speech, and body.
Application questions:

1. Where does this transformation from the “old self” to the “new self” begin- in our inner worlds or our outer behavior?

2. Why do you think Paul calls the Ephesian Christians not only to stop doing sinful things, but also start doing holy things? What is the goal of holiness?

3. Is more difficult for you to stop doing sinful things or to form habits of doing good things? Why do you think that is?