

The New Me I Want To Be

By Justin Morton

At the close of each year, many of us set aside some time to reflect over the previous year and to look ahead to the new year. We think about some of the changes we want to make. We even consider how those changes could transform our lives. For those of us who are Christians, we challenge ourselves to be better spiritually and to reflect Jesus more every day. Unfortunately, we are not always sure what that means in our day to day lives.

In Colossians 3, Paul gives us two ways our lives can better reflect Jesus. The first way is by putting off sinful practices (Col. 3:5, 8). As Christians, certain things are not appropriate for us to engage in. When we put on Christ in baptism, we are to remove sin as far as possible from our lives so that we may reflect Jesus. Remember, Jesus was sinless (Heb. 4:15, 1 Pet. 2:22). If we want to look more like Jesus, we must remove (“put to death”) sinful practices from our lives.

The second way our lives can better reflect Jesus is by what we put on. Christians have made known what they don’t do and this is important. However, it’s equally imperative for us to be mindful that our faith isn’t just about what we don’t do; our faith is also about what we do practice. Luke records for us that Jesus went about doing good (Acts 10:38). Jesus wasn’t just known for what He didn’t do; Jesus was known for what He practiced.

As Christians, we are to put on Christlikeness (Col. 3:9-11). Some of the attributes of Christ Paul mentions are: compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness and love (Col. 3:12-14). Each of these traits are easily identified in the life of Jesus. What about in our lives? If we are going to better reflect Him, we must live as He lived and do as He did.

Too often, I am afraid we are guilty of shouting from the rooftops that we are Christians, but we fail to live our lives as Jesus lived His. Let’s always remember our faith shouldn’t be just a declaration our faith should also be a demonstration. May our words and our works model that of Christ Jesus in this new year.