

PK's Perspectives ... Old Man

Since you have put off the old man with his practices and have put on the new man, who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of his Creator. Colossians 3:9-10

These two verses are part of a larger body of Scripture in the new Testament that instruct us in regards to what it means to live as a child of God in the here and now. I love these verses...I wrestle with the meaning of these verses...I so want to experience the reality these verses expose...

Being a follower of Jesus means something has become old (irrelevant & powerless), and a new something has been created. "Old things have passed away, and look, new things have come" is the way it is voiced in another of these thought-provoking verses (2 Corinthians 5:17).

I fully understand the "old" refers to my sinful nature; the "new" is the life of Christ that now resides within me. Here's the thing: for the time being, "old" and "new" occupy the same house, so to speak. This physical, mortal body was formerly the domain of the "old man" but it's also now the dwelling of the "new man" that was created when I died to sin and placed my faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The old man and the new man are occupying the same space...at least until this old body dies.

It is this spiritual dynamic, the deposed old man (sinful nature) and the and the reigning new man (mind of Christ/Holy Spirit) existing in the same body, that makes walking with Jesus such an adventure! The old man rants, raves, and bullies, demanding to be acknowledged - but the old man no longer has standing in the life of a believer; the new man desires to know the heart of God. Life for the follower of Jesus is choosing whether to listen to the powerless croaking of the old, dead man or the vibrant voice of the new man, which is the all-powerful Holy Spirit. The Bible expresses it this way: "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do things that you wish." (Galatians 5:17)

There are days when I long to be free of the whispered lies of my "old man" because at times I have listened to that pitiable voice, believed those lies, and ached from the pain of the self-inflicted spiritual wounds. I get so angry...with me. For listening to that load of codswallop; for forgetting that I have put off the old man. Jesus, remind me that I have put on the new man and renew me according to your image.

Cya in Sunday School & Worship, PK.