

1. New Humanity in Christ—Colossians (Paul writing to folks he did not know to a church he did not start due to coworker Epaphras' appeal for help in maturing this first generation church. Paul's overreaching point to them---there is now a new humanity created in Christ Jesus that transforms everything. The old way is out the new way is in—Christ must now occupy first priority in all; impact every aspect of life; and become our all-in-all. Nothing compares; nothing else brings fulfillment; in this new humanity our all sufficiency is in Christ alone. It looks like)
2. Colossians 3:9-11 MSG
3. (The backstory) An Opposing Worldview; 2:6-23 (The Colossians were being deceived by an aggressive worldview bent on undermining their relationship with Christ and their ability to live out this new humanity. It had eroded their confidence in Christ as all-sufficient. It was a mixture of Jewish legalism and pagan mysticism that emphasized a performance based spirituality that looked impressive but was ultimately hollow. Paul worked to expose it and reorient this church to Christ. It basically had two principles which always undermine the sufficiency of Christ—even now)
 - a. Self-reliance (strict rules; harsh treatment of the body—all ways of earning righteousness by performance)
 - b. Seeking something more (Christ is not enough—can't be this simple, right? Need something bigger, better, flashier, something others cannot even attain—but it all is chasing after the wind—accomplishes nothing—**look at 2:23-** except to nudge Jesus away and fail in living out his new humanity.)
4. Re-Ordered Life (This is the result of the new humanity—which Paul was calling them back to embrace)
 - a. Remove the old way of behaving (sexual sin; greed; anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language etc.)
 - b. Replace with the new way of Christ (compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience—learn to love and forgive and live in peace)
 - c. Re-orient everything (**Our home, families, jobs, school, relationships---do everything in the name of Jesus: not some things—EVERYTHING! A complete re-ordering of life as we live out this new humanity in Christ. Do we get it? It is not a game. Opposing worldviews flourish! We need to find our fullness in none of them—not get sucked up into some self-reliant ambitious shell game that will never deliver on promises. Rather truly embrace the new humanity; allow it to change everything and live that out in stark contrast to the world.**)
5. “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above.” –3:1 (Are we truly setting our hearts on Christ? This is the only way we can live out the new humanity; avoid being captured by the deceptive philosophies of various worldviews; and allow Christ to bring about the transformation of the new humanity within us)