

## ***PUT ON THE NEW MAN***

*David Halbrook*

New things can quickly become old. Many children have worn out their “new” toys. 2014 is not as new as it was last week. But, the “new man” does not grow old, just stronger. Paul tells us about him in Colossians 3--

v1-4 The new man is raised and alive when the old man is dead and buried. Colossians 2:12 says we are buried with Jesus in baptism and then raised (alive) through faith in the working of God. Before this baptism, we are not raised with Christ or a new man but are lost and dead in sin.

v5-11 The new man puts off sinful habits and is renewed in knowledge. This new way of thinking leads to a new way of living. He puts off sexual sins (fornication, adultery, homosexuality), lying, sinful anger, and filthy language.

v12-25 The new man not only puts off these things, he also puts on some things. He is kind and humble, like Jesus. He is thankful for what God has done. With Jesus' words in his mind, he sings to God with other Christians. He lives by Jesus' teachings, not human religion, teachings, or traditions.

Contact us if we can help you learn about or put on the new man in Christ in this new year.

Editor's Note: Find our article in *Arkansas Weekly* and help others to do the same. As we give according to our ability this morning, remember that in part, we are giving so that we can spread the gospel in this paper. Remembering how our funds are used can help us to be cheerful in giving.

### **Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.**

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Samuel Southall, and others with ongoing trials, our brethren who are travelling, and new Christians among us.

Tristian Harville has continued growing as a Christian in many ways. He has studied the importance of the local church and has expressed his desire to work with us. Let's continue to encourage him. He has already encouraged us!

Will you help with the signboard out front or offer an idea of how to use it?

*We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM*

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# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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[WWW.QVCOC.COM](http://WWW.QVCOC.COM)

## ***JESUS CHRIST: MAN WITH A MISSION***

*Dick Blackford*

Christ's mission on earth was to seek and save the lost. It would be accomplished by His going to the cross. He said "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to myself. This he said, signifying by what death he would die" (John 12:32, 33). Further, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him ... Therefore everyone who has **heard** and **learned** from the Father comes to me." (John 6:44, 45). How are people drawn to the Lord? By **hearing** and **learning**.

When Jesus fed the 5000 he didn't advertise "*All the fish you can eat*" to draw crowds so He could teach them. In fact, His disciples wanted to send them away to buy food, which shows no promise of food had been made to entice them (Mark 6:35-44). The next day Jesus rebuked those who followed for the loaves and fishes (John 6:26). Instead of feeding them again, He pointed them to the spiritual bread of life. Jesus didn't use recreation and entertainment to draw people, nor did His church use these to retain converts. Professional marketers tell us we should use these carnal appeals as motivation. Why is there such an absence of this kind of motivation in Scripture?

In the Bible we learn that the church is the blood-bought body of Christ (Acts 20:28; Col.1:18). Has it become something else? When appeals to the flesh are used we're suggesting God didn't do enough - that His way of drawing lacks something and we can improve on it. Paul insisted that God had provided the ultimate motivation in offering Jesus.

Why the stable? Why the mockery of justice, the beating and the crown of thorns? Because the Father saw the sinful, pitiful creatures we were - and loved us anyway by sending Jesus to the cross for our sins. Can you see the contrast? If motivation is what you want, it doesn't get any better than this! This is the greatest and only motivation God gave!

([www.stonestreetbcv.com/id267.html](http://www.stonestreetbcv.com/id267.html))

## ***MAY A SPOUSE WHO COMMITS ADULTERY MARRY ANOTHER?***

*David Halbrook*

If upon reading the title, you almost lost interest in reading this article thinking “We all know the answer to that!,” then you are blessed and to be commended for learning God’s will in this area. Most people alive today do not *understand the will of the Lord* in this matter and have no one who is willing and able to show them (Eph. 5:17).

This topic demands our attention because our society ignores God’s decisions regarding marriage, in many ways. A few people learn God’s will on this matter later in life after they have determined the direction of their life and family, making this a challenge to their faith and willingness to love Christ “more than these.” New Christians often never have heard of the Lord’s will in this matter. Among Christians, the truth is not always taught, and sometimes Christians who have believed and taught the truth end up practicing something different. And all sincere Christians revisit subjects they have studied in the past from time to time to ensure faithfulness to God instead of relying only on “what I have always believed and heard”—this is commendable. So whether you are one or will teach some of these people, let’s study.

### 1. Matthew 5:32

*But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.*

The word divorce simply means to free or dismiss someone. It is not only a “marriage” word but when used in the context of marriage, means leaving (or sending someone away) with no intent to return (or accept someone back). In one sentence Jesus deals with three people and several circumstances involving divorce and remarriage. What does He say about each?

Momentarily removing the words “except for sexual immorality,” Jesus says that all divorce and remarriage is sinful. When a man abandons his wife, the usual response for her is to find another spouse. Jesus says, in this circumstance, that she and her new spouse commit adultery, and her original spouse caused her to do so. So, although in this case she is guilty of adultery, Jesus says the original husband is also guilty of sin. The original man and woman belong to each other and sin by ignoring or abandoning each other.

By including the words “except for sexual immorality,” Jesus also rules on a different circumstance. If a man leaves (or sends his wife away) as a result of her

sexual immorality, then the opposite of what He said is true. When she finds herself another spouse and thereby commits adultery, the original husband is not the cause of her sin. God judges him to be innocent, while judging the woman and he who married her to be guilty of adultery.

Jesus says nothing about whether or not the original husband may remarry in either circumstance. To know God’s will for him, we must go to another passage.

### 2. Matthew 19:9

*And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.*

Like His teaching in Matthew 5, in one statement Jesus covers several people and circumstances. This time, He deals with both original spouses and both people to whom the original spouses go after leaving (or being sent away).

Again, momentarily read the verse as if “except for sexual immorality” was not there. When no sexual immorality has occurred, then whoever leaves his wife (or sends her away) and goes to another woman commits adultery. And, regarding his wife, if she goes to another man, both she and the new man commit adultery.

Now, include Jesus’ words “except for sexual immorality” as you meditate on this passage. If a man leaves (or sends away) his wife for her sexual immorality, then when he marries another woman, their marriage is honorable and their bed undefiled (Heb. 13:4)—they do not commit adultery. Jesus had to make this statement (“except for sexual immorality”) or else no remarriage would be permitted (except in the case of death). While we may feel that “it’s just fair” that this innocent spouse be permitted to remarry, this feeling is not enough to justify any action. We can never live based upon what *seems right* to us but must live by a faith that understands God’s will (Prov. 16:25; Eph. 5:17). However, no exception exists in this circumstance for the woman who is sent away (or leaves) and marries another man. She has no permission from Jesus to marry another man. Remember, the only reason the other spouse may remarry is because Jesus gave him permission.

All sins have the same consequences upon our spirit and eternity, but the earthly consequences of some sins vary. Clearly in this case, the earthly consequence of sexual immorality while married is serious. Of course, God is longsuffering and willing to forgive if the adulterer will “go and sin no more” and “come after Me... deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (Jn. 8:11; Matt. 16:24). The self-denial will be hard and the cross heavy, but following Jesus to heaven is worth it! [Next week’s article will deal with some specific, related questions I have received]