



**SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”**

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**Monday, 09/13/2021**

**Scripture: Colossians 3:9b-10**

**TITLE: The Old vs. New Battle**

We live in confusing times. People are confused about gender, sexuality, truth, and, to be frank, things that are just self-evident. I recently saw a recommendation from certain academies that we should refer to mothers and birthing persons as “breastfeeding” and “chestfeeding.” There is just a lot of confusion.

Now, you may not be struggling with knowing that a boy is a boy and a girl is a girl. But chances are, as a Christian, you may struggle with understanding our old and new natures. If this is you, listen to Paul’s words in Colossians 3:9b-10.

*“For you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.”*

This is one of those passages that is so helpful and so confusing for Christians. It’s that wrestling with a new nature and the battle with the flesh. The common question is “If I have a new nature, then why do I still sin?”

The simple answer is because our new natures live in the old shell. Our old nature is stained with sin. It is depraved and corrupted. Our new nature is renewed. Its desires are restored. Its relationship to God is made right. The differences are clear!

Okay, great. But if this new nature (or as Paul would call us in 2 Cor. 5:17, “a new creation”), then why is the battle so strong. Why do we battle our sinful inclinations so much? This was Paul’s struggle in Romans 7.

Well, it’s a battle between the Spirit and the flesh. The old flesh and the new nature. The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Imagine with me you buy a car to fix it up. You can rip out the old engine and replace it with a new one. Now, that car could really haul and sound good doing so. But unless you continue the process of fixing the rest of it up, the car will not drive as desired. It takes new shocks, struts, breaks, hoses, etc. That’s the flesh. Whereas the engine is the Spirit.

This is why Paul says, “be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.” It is the daily process of training for righteousness. It’s the process of becoming spiritually fit by engaging in God’s Word and then actively living it out.

You can put on running shoes, but unless you are willing to get moving, they are useless. You can buy all the health food in the world, but unless you are willing to consume them exclusively, you're stuck. Take off the old and put on the new.

So this is my challenge for you today: Do one thing to say "no" to your flesh and your ungodly desires and say "yes" to becoming like our Savior.

Is it avoiding a streaming show that takes you further away from God? Say no and say yes to something godly. Is it saying "no" to charging that thing you cannot afford and living within your budget? There are so many ways to say "no" to the flesh and say "yes" to that new nature.

Share in the comments below what you will do. When we lean into our new nature, we will win the day.