

# Colossians 3:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

## Analysis

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**And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.** Conversion involves both negative (putting off) and positive (putting on). "Have put on" (endysamenoi, ἐνδύσαμενοι) continues clothing metaphor: believers clothed themselves with "the new man" (ton neon, τὸν νέον), the new identity in Christ. This isn't self-improvement but new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

This new man "is renewed in knowledge" (anakainoumenon eis epignōsin, ἀνακαινούμενον εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν), present participle indicating ongoing renewal toward fuller knowledge of God. "After the image of him that created him" (kat' eikona tou ktisantos auton, κατ' εἰκόνα τοῦ κτίσαντος αὐτὸν) echoes Genesis 1:27 —redemption restores humanity to God's image, marred by fall, progressively renewed until glorification. Christ is the perfect image (1:15); believers are being conformed to His likeness.

## Historical Context

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Greek philosophy sought self-improvement through education and discipline. Judaism emphasized law-keeping. Christianity uniquely teaches new creation—not renovating old nature but receiving entirely new identity through union with Christ. This newness begins at conversion (justification) and progresses throughout life (sanctification), culminating in resurrection (glorification). The

process is divine work, not human achievement, though believers cooperate through obedience.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. Do you pursue holiness through self-improvement or through deepening your new identity in Christ?
2. What evidence of progressive renewal exists in your life—growing knowledge of God and conformity to Christ?
3. How does recognizing you're being remade in God's image affect self-perception and purpose?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἐνδυσάμενοι	τοῦ	νέον	τοῦ	ἀνακαινούμενον
And	have put on	man which	the new	man which	is renewed
G2532	G1746	G3588	G3501	G3588	G341
εἰς	ἐπίγνωσιν	κατ'	εἰκόνα	τοῦ	κτίσαντος αὐτόν
in	knowledge	after	the image of him	man which	that created him
G1519	G1922	G2596	G1504	G3588	G2936 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 12:2** (Parallel theme): And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**Ephesians 2:10** (Creation): For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** (Parallel theme): Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**Colossians 3:12** (Parallel theme): Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

**Psalms 51:10** (Creation): Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

**Ezekiel 11:19** (Parallel theme): And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

**Colossians 3:14** (Parallel theme): And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

**Ezekiel 36:26** (Parallel theme): A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

**1 John 2:5** (Parallel theme): But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

**Romans 13:14** (Parallel theme): But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.