

Day 23 Colossians 3: 8-10

I have two grandkids. They are two and three. When I take care of them, I am on constant repeat telling them to talk kindly to one another. Just when I think they have it mastered they will go off at each other again! And then I get mad.

Most of us still have to remind ourselves to talk kindly at times. It takes some discipline to not say exactly what we are thinking, especially if we're angry.

These verses in Colossians are two-fold, the first to underline how we treat each other, and the second to underline the fact that we are being renewed to the knowledge of the image we are reflecting ... our Creator.

Our problem with a lot of the sin in our lives is that we say to ourselves, "well that's just how I am." The problem with that "go to" is that we are told over and over in these and other verses in Colossians that is not "how we are". That's our "old self." The self that didn't have the perspective of the power of salvation.

This perspective goes beyond just being "nice" to each other. In the south we can be overly nice to each other. And then we walk away and throw shade on each other.

But this text tells us to rid ourselves of these things, not just be nice. Anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language - we all struggle with the list.

When it comes to anger let's research, because we all get angry. In James 1:19-20 it says this.

My dear brothers and sisters take note of this: Everyone should be slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

This verse gives us a little more how and why we need to deal with anger. We see in this verse in James that anger isn't the problem, as much as how we deal with it. We are going to get angry, and rightly so at times, but it says to be slow at it. In other words, think it through.

When we respond at high levels of anger it can make the point we are trying to make, sound irrational. I think this is what James is talking about. Keep your head and give a response to your injustice instead of giving a reaction.

And the why? Because anger usually affects us more than it affects the person or the thing we're angry with. And we all know Paul is right in saying that if we allow anger to burn in us it has the side effects of rage, malice, etc. We have all experienced the effects of unchecked anger, on both sides of the coin.

There is a unique treasure in verse 9 of this Colossians text. It is the fact that because we have the Holy Spirit, we are being renewed in the knowledge of who God is. And as we are renewed in that knowledge, the way we approach sin and anger in our life will be transformed.

This verse tells us that sin and its outcomes don't have to dictate to us any longer. This is a promise. Our new self doesn't have to take the bait. We just have to lean more into that knowledge and pray it will renew us indeed.

When we think we can't change we are probably right. But when we open ourselves to being transformed, when we surrender to our "new self" and look for it, we will find all things are possible in Christ.