IMAGO DEI

Restoring the Divine Image

Three Streams of Christian Spirituality

STREAM	Evangelical	Reformed	Contemplative
VOCABULARY	Discipleship	Sanctification	Formation
EMPHASIS	Basic Christian living	Holiness, theological understanding	Holistic spiritual transformation
EXAMPLES	Ronald Coleman Bill Hull	Sinclair Ferguson John Piper	Dallas Willard Ruth Haley Barton
STRENGTHS	Habits of personal bible study & prayer	Focus on doctrine, importance of church	Physical and psychological aspects of spiritual life
WEAKNESSES	Can be overly individualistic	Can be overly intellectual	Can be overly mystical

Three Streams of Christian Spirituality

All these streams have one common goal: Christlikeness

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Outline

1. Remember your identity

2. Reorder your desires

3. Renew your mind

1. Remember your identity

Colossians 3:1-4



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1. Remember your identity

Colossians 3:1-4



Colossians 3:1-2, 5-9

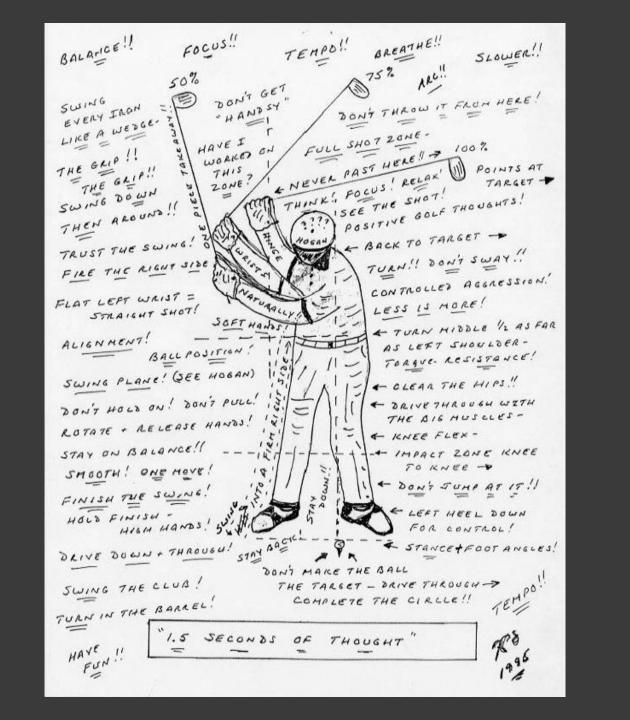


The whole life of a good Christian is a holy desire.

—St. Augustine

Meditation: set your mind on Christ

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Mortification: put your sins to death

<u>Put to death</u>, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. (Col. 3:5)

Application: How to kill sin

a. Look to the cross (vv. 1-3; 1 Peter 2:24)



He [the Spirit] brings the cross of Christ into the heart of a sinner by faith, and gives communion with Christ in His death, and fellowship in His sufferings Set your faith upon Christ for the killing of your sin. His blood is the great sovereign remedy for sin-sick souls.

—John Owen

Application: How to kill sin

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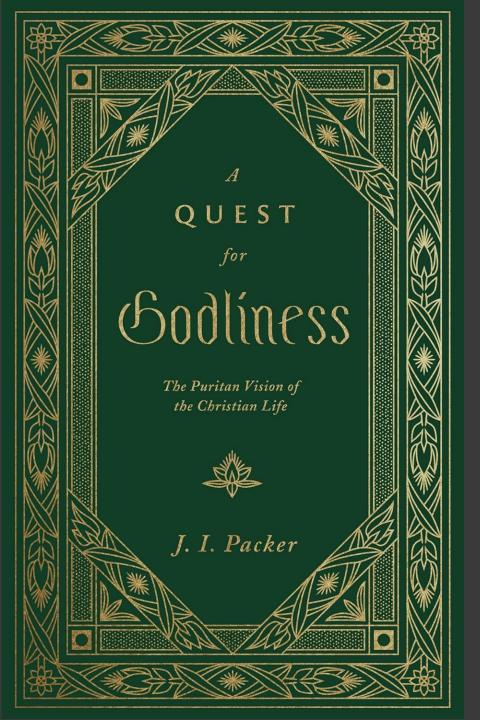
- a. Look to the cross (vv. 1-3; 1 Peter 2:24)
- b. Get to the root idolatries and desires (v. 5)
- c. Make no provision for the flesh (Rom. 13:14)
- d. Depend on the Spirit (Rom. 8:13)

Colossians 3:9-17

a. The goal of renewal: restoration of the divine image (v. 10)

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b. The <u>process</u> of renewal: ongoing, gradual, inside-out (v. 10)



Man was made to know good with his mind, to desire it, once he has come to know it, with his affections, and to cleave to it, once he has felt its attraction, with his will; the good in this case being God, his truth and his law. God accordingly moves us, not by direct action on the affections or will, but by addressing our mind with his word, and so bringing to bear on us the force of truth . . . Affection may be the helm of the ship, but the mind must steer; and the chart to steer by is God's revealed truth.

—J. I. Packer

- a. The goal of renewal: restoration of the divine image (v. 10)
- b. The <u>process</u> of renewal: ongoing, gradual, inside-out (v. 10)
- c. The context of renewal: the communion of saints (v. 11-15)

Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

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- b. The process of renewal: ongoing, gradual, inside-out (v. 10)
- c. The context of renewal: the communion of saints (v. 11-15)
- d. The means of renewal: worship, word, prayer (v. 16-17)

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Summary

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