



Incompatibility Of The Old With The New

“No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old” (Luke 5:36).

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

Some things are incompatible. Any attempt to ignore this fact leads to destruction, damage and loss.

“No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse” (Matthew 9:16).

“No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment: else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse” (Mark 2:21).

“And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old” (Luke 5:36).

As a good teacher, to enhance understanding, Jesus illustrated His sermons with practices that were common in those days so as to create a mental image that resonates with the hearers. In today's economy, it is in many places more cost effective to replace a torn old garment with a new one than to repair it. So many today do not have a concept of the practice described in this parable. However, in those days, torn old garments were patched with pieces of other garments to increase their longevity. Jesus used this practice to illustrate the incompatibility of an old sinful life with the new life in Christ. It was not to their credit when scriptures reported “So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day” (2 Kings 17:41). This demonstrates that we cannot patch up an old life to become new creatures in Christ, but that total transformation / regeneration is required as exemplified by the following scriptures:

- 1) “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...” (John 3:3-8).
- 2) “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a

new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

- 3) “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Colossians 1:13).
- 4) “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9).
- 5) “... but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (Titus 3:3-7).
- 6) “For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God” (1 Thessalonians 1:9).
- 7) “Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. 10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire” (Matthew 3:8-10).

God's unchanging requirement for salvation and eternal life remains “... the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15). There is no acceptable middle ground “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Revelations 3:15-16).