Be You

Our culture longs for authenticity. We're tired of fakers and phonies who say one thing and do another. People should just be true to themselves and have the courage to flout tradition when it holds them back from genuine self-expression. However, this mentality results in major individual and social problems from sexually transmitted diseases to sexual harassment to racism and mass shootings. Christianity offers a better way, by providing a standard to conform ourselves to that maximally enables human flourishing.

Colossians 3:1-5   The terminology in v5 is excessively hostile: "put to death what is earthly in you." Don't reason with it, or seek to diminish its influence. Don't try to understand it, or make excuses for it. Kill it! Put it down.

Colossians 3:6   God did not design us to behave this way. He gave us passions but placed boundaries on them. When people defy His original intention, it bothers Him.

Colossians 3:7-10   This is the language of clothing: put off and put on. We must strip off the old way of being a human (Adam) and clothe ourselves with the new way of being a human (Christ), which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its Creator—the way God originally designed us.

Colossians 3:11   Not only behavior but social barriers need to change. Ethnicity, social status, education, independence are all outshone by the splendor of Christ's radiant glory, enabling harmony between us all.

Colossians 3:12-17   Imagine that there are two towns that live by each of these opposing ways: Freetown and Corpus Christi. Which would you rather live in? As you conform to the Christian lifestyle, it becomes second nature. It does not crush you or rob you of your humanity, but it provides the necessary boundaries to make human growth and flourishing possible.