

Jesus, Our All in All – Out with the Old, In with the New, Colossians 3:5-17

Last week's message focused on a couple of important things every believer should do as we learn to truly live the Christian life. Paul gave us two principles for our "walk" with Christ. Every believer desiring to walk with the Lord daily must begin by seeking the things above; the heavenly things and forsake the things here on earth. Every believer should then begin setting their minds, or their affections on heavenly things. Simply put – seek the things of God and then make every effort to look at life from His perspective. When we learn to do these things, God's plan for our life will become clear and we will find ourselves living in perfect harmony with Him and focusing on future things instead of temporary things.

Today, we are going to look at Paul's further advice concerning some of the other things we need to do to be a better walking partner with Jesus. Paul provides practical examples for how we can work unified with the Holy Spirit to get rid of the old self and replace it with a new and much improved self. ***Out with the old and in with the new.***

Read Colossians 3:5-11

Verses 5-11 teach us about the necessity to "put to death" or if you prefer the KJV, "mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth". Paul, in these few verses, addresses two types of common sins often found in the hearts of people. He begins by addressing the sensual sins. Some refer to these as lustful sins. Those things that appeal to the "lust of the flesh" those things that appeal to the "lust of the eyes." Have a look with me at the first list as Paul describes them in verse 5.

Sexual immorality – When we consider the entirety of Scripture, this addresses any form of sexual activity that occurs outside the marriage between one man and one woman. Things such as adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, or any other form of illicit sexual behavior. If it doesn't honor God and your spouse, don't do it!

Impurity – This is speaking about cleanliness in the moral sense. Paul is referring to lustful pursuit of luxurious and loose living.

Passion – This is speaking of a person's overwhelming desire to pursue immoral and evil things. A person with this type of appetite will do whatever it takes to feed their hunger.

Evil Desire – This is a desire for forbidden things. It is true that whatever a person desires eventually becomes what that person will do.

Covetousness – This is the sin of always wanting more and never being satisfied or content. This can be things or pleasures. Regardless, the covetous person always wants what other people have. Paul says this sin is idolatry. This is because covetousness replaces love for God with love for things and pleasures.

Paul teaches us that we need to put all these things to death. They belong to the old you. And remember, because of Jesus, you are alive and new "in Him." These things no longer have a place with the new you.

The next list we get from Paul addresses what can be viewed as "social sins." These are sins born out of our emotions. For this list, we are encouraged to cast them off, or to cast them to the side. Warren Wiersbe wrote about these sins, saying, "We are so accustomed to anger, critical

attitudes, lying, and coarse humor among believers that we are no longer upset or convicted about these sins. We are always shocked to see a church member commit some sensual sin, but we will watch him lose his temper in a business meeting and call it “righteous indignation.”” Have a closer look at this list.

Anger – This is referring to an angry attitude. Have you ever been around someone that seems to always be angry? There is no real justification for it. They’re just mad at the world.

Wrath – Wrath is like anger but means the sudden outburst of anger towards another person. None of us have the right to cast judgement on someone else and then burst out with this form of unrighteous anger. Only God’s wrath towards our sin is a just wrath.

Malice – Paul is speaking about having an attitude of ill will toward another person. This is a desire to see someone fail or face hardship or even be harmed physically.

Slander – This sin is usually born out of malice. If you have ill will towards another person, eventually you will say something bad about them to tear them down and attack their character. Often among Christian’s this shows up as malicious gossip.

Obscene Talk – is just that: foul speech, coarse humor, obscene language. For some reason, some Christians think it is manly or socially acceptable to use this kind of speech. Low humor sometimes creeps into our conversations and can be dangerous.

Lying – We know that Satan is the author of lies. John says, there is “no truth in him.” We also know that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. When a Christian lies, he is cooperating with Satan; when he speaks the truth in love, he is cooperating with the Spirit of God.

Why should we avoid all these things? Why should we “put them to death?” Because it is how we put into practice the principle of “putting on the new self” who is being renewed “in the image of the Creator.” Look at verses 10 and 11 again. Paul tells us the goal is to “put on the new self,” and to make Christ “all in all.”

Now that Paul has beaten us up fairly good, let’s look at verses 12-17 for some encouragement. **Read Colossians 3:12-17.** Here, Paul continues the image of getting dressed. “Putting off” that which is filthy and old, and then “putting on” that which is fresh and new. Paul wants us to have a desire to live holy lives. In this list, he addresses our motives by drawing our attention to four things that should be the basis for how we go about living our lives for Christ. In verses 12-14 he explains the characteristics found in the grace of Christ. These are: *compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing another’s burdens, forgiveness, and above all these, love*. When Christ-like love rules our lives, it unites all these characteristics of grace so that there is beauty and harmony. These things keep life balanced and growing. In verse 15, Paul teaches us about the peace of Christ. If you want to know when you are in God’s will, there will be peace in your heart, in your life. Step out of His will and the peace will be gone. Thirdly, in verse 16, Paul draws our attention to the Word of Christ. The false teachers came to Colossae with man-made traditions, religious rules, and human philosophies. Their attempts to harmonize God’s Word with their teachings, could not succeed. God’s Word always magnifies Jesus Christ. Just stick to what it says and forget the other stuff. And finally, in verse 17, Paul reminds us of authority over our lives. This authority is found in the name of Jesus. As Christians, we bare the name of Christ each day. His name is our id tag. With His name comes His authority. Paul says in all that we say or do, it must be done in the name of the Lord Jesus.