

April 26, 2020
Put Deadly Sins to Death

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Colossians 3:5-11

If you miss the context of Colossians 3:5-11 your interpretation may undermine the very truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The result will be a frustrating legalistic religious experience at best, and possible ignorance of the required grace of God resulting in an eternity in hell through the failed effort to save oneself.

I. Putting sins to death requires a prior **LIFE TRANSFORMATION**, 3:1-5.

A. "Therefore" (3:5) takes you to this necessary **CHANGE** (3:3).

This change involves new **LIFE** (3:3; 3:10; 2 Cor 5:17), new **POWER** (3:10; John 14:15-17; 16:7-15; Gal 5:16-25), and new **MOTIVATION** (John 14:15, 31).

B. Without life transformation, these instructions become **CORRUPTED**.

They become a futile effort to **GAIN LIFE** (Gal 3:10-14), become futile through **LACK OF POWER** (Col 2:20-23, contrast Gal 5:16-25), and have no **INTERNAL** motivation (Col 3:10; Romans 6:15-18).

II. Putting sins to death requires **ACTION**, 3:5-10.

A. There must be agreement with God about **SIN** ("confession," 5-9).

This is to acknowledge certain actions and ways are "**OF EARTH**" rather than of heaven (3:5), and are of the "**OLD SELF**" (unsaved) and not appropriate for the "**NEW SELF**" (saved, 3:9-10).

B. Specific sins are **NAMED** (3:5-9; compare Gal 5:19-21; Romans 1:26-32).

C. There must be **REPENTANCE** (3:5;8).

Put sins to **DEATH** (3:5), and put them **OFF** (3:8, contrast 3:10,12 "put on").

III. Putting sins to death involves the process of being **RENEWED**, 3:10-11.

A. Those who are in Christ are being renewed in the image of their **CREATOR** (10, see Romans 12:1-2).

B. They are becoming like **CHRIST** (11).

C. Renewal is needed by **ALL** (11).

When you are saved by grace through faith, then you put away sin and sinful ways, ways of the "old self", by the power of the Holy Spirit and because you love the Lord! In this way you reflect to the world the very image of Jesus Christ, and all need to see him!

Family Time:

Some things are “fitting” or appropriate for a given person or setting. For instance, when and where is it appropriate to shout loudly? In what setting is that not appropriate? Why? Think of some other examples. Compare this to the fact that some behaviors and attitudes are not appropriate for a follower of Jesus, and through discussion make certain it is understood this is not about becoming saved, but choosing to become like Jesus because you are saved, love him, want to honor him and represent him well.

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. Colossians 3:5 has a very important “therefore” which precedes, and expresses a prior condition, before one tries to follow the commandments given beginning here (“put to death”) and continuing with things to be “put away,” and things to be “put on.” Explain the significance of the “therefore”, and the potential error of trying to obey these commands without the prior condition being met.
2. In comparing Colossians 3:2 with Romans 12:1-2, what is the connection between growing sanctification (transformation into the likeness of Christ who is holy) and the mind? What practical implications does this have for the things we watch, listen to, and the conversations we engage in (live or via facebook or other media)? Are there any changes in your practice that would enable you to more successfully obey the commands to “put off” and to “put on” here? Will you make those changes?
3. Who has the right to define the terms Paul uses in Colossians 3:6-9? Why do we humans tend to create new definitions? Who does this...only unbelievers, or do followers of Jesus sometimes fall into the same practice? What definitions will matter when what is anticipated in v. 6 comes?
4. Why do you think Paul included v. 11 as he was giving instructions about changes people need to make in their life to become more like Jesus? Do some people groups struggle more with certain sin issues (consider Titus 1:12-13)? Are there any people groups that don’t have sin issues they need to deal with?
5. Why do you think it is important, in fact essential, for those who have discovered life *in Christ*—they are saved through faith in Jesus—to grow through life discipline to have a life *like Christ*? That is, for the believer to grow in holiness or sanctification through putting off sin, and putting on characteristics that are like Jesus?