



SERMON NOTES

DEEPLY ROOTED TOGETHER

Can We Really Change? Part 1

Colossians 3:5-11

“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.” (Colossians 3:5–11, NIV)

We are a **bent** people. And if we keep bending, we will eventually snap.
The only way to kill off our bent self is to **starve** it.

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WEEK NINE: COLOSSIANS 3:5-11

Description for Series

Your view of Jesus Christ will impact every area of your life. These past months have revealed, more than ever, that we need to remain strong in our faith. Today, as in the Colossian church, there are doctrines and theological perspectives that can lead to wrong thinking about who Jesus is. Paul addresses the heresies by reminding the believers in Colossae of the centrality of Christ. Believers have died with Christ; therefore, we need to die to our sins. We have also been raised with Christ; therefore, we must live well in him and put on qualities that are motivated by Christian love. And because he is Lord over all, the life of the Christian is a life of submission to Jesus. This study will cause us to think about if we are following Jesus as we should. Our faith in Jesus Christ should transform the relationships we have in every area of our lives—in our homes, our churches, and our world.

The devotional guide will continue the same rhythm that we used for the last devotional guides where we practiced the 3 x 20 pattern. Spend at least 20 minutes, 3 times a week, in God's word. Each of the three days you will be asked to implement the **Read. Reflect. Respond.** pattern to help get more deeply into God's word.

This passage looks at the way we live with others. If we are honest, at times, we see in ourselves, and also in others, tendencies that can damage and destroy relationships. What can we do? Can we really change? In these verses Paul argues that change is possible as we live out our new identity in Christ. How can we view change as the process of "putting off" and "putting on?"

Scripture Guide

During this sermon series we are going to pray through specific passages in Colossians as we learn about our own identity and being "deeply rooted together." There is a Scripture Guide available on Sunday at the Hub or on hfcinfo.com.

The prayer focus for this week is Colossians 3:8-10, *"But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."*

Below is an example of how to pray the Bible for the Hershey Free family.

"Father, I find myself tempted to sin in so many ways: Unjustified anger, fury, spite, maligning, nastiness, foul language and lying to one another are just some of the ways that I dishonor your name. Help me to throw these actions far away from you because they belong to my old nature. I pray for the Spirit to help me rejoice in the fact that my old nature is continuously being renewed in the image of the Creator as I follow hard after you. Amen."

DAY ONE

Read Colossians 3:5-11.

- Why does Paul use such strong language in verse 5? What does it mean to “put to death” anything that belongs to your earthly nature?
- Why does Paul say that the sins of sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed will lead to idolatry?

Reflect on the list Paul mentions in verse 5. Be careful not to give yourself a “pass” on these behaviors and think about the underlying idols behind the sinful thoughts, feelings, words, and actions in your life.

Respond by confessing any of the sins mentioned in this verse and asking for help from a friend to help hold you accountable to change.

DAY TWO

Read the passage again.

- Paul continues to talk about things we are to get rid of in verse 8 when he says, “get rid of anger, malice, slander, and filthy language.” How is this list different than the one in verse 5?
- How do these sins reflect what is going on in a person’s heart? Why are they so damaging to the body of Christ?

Reflect on these questions? How does your speech, conversation, and words still look like the old you? How might your words and tone discourage others or dishonor Christ?

Respond by intentionally looking for ways to use your words and conversations to encourage others. Be deliberate in your interactions and encourage at least 3 people with your words each day this week.



DAY THREE

Read the passage again.

- What is one way Paul mentions that believers can show that they are putting on the new self?
- How does the knowledge of Jesus lead to being remade in his image?
- How does verse 11 fit with the practices of “putting off and putting on?” Why does Paul choose to write about the diversity of believers in the church at Colosse?

Reflect on how growing in the knowledge of Jesus enhances the process of “putting off and putting on.” How is that occurring in your life?

Respond by meditating on this passage and allowing the Spirit of God to reveal areas that you need to address in your life that are hindering your walk with Christ and with other believers.

SMALL GROUP & FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Nik stated that if we continue to bend, we'll eventually break. What are the implications of this statement in our daily lives?
2. In what ways are you “bending” in your life that could have negative consequences?
3. List the sins that are to be put to death. These sins are sexual and physical in nature. Why is Paul so adamant that they should be put to death?
4. What is the effect of continuing to practice these sins? How are the areas of our lives impacted?
5. List the sins that we are to get rid of. Why are sins of speech so detrimental to the body of Christ?
6. What does it mean to “put on the new self?” How is heart transformation different than behavior modification?