

“The Supremacy of Christ in Our Sanctification (Part 1)” Colossians 3:5-11

The Point: Deal ruthlessly with all sin in your life by putting it to death.

I. Get out your weapons, and put sin to death! (3:5-8/9)

- **Context:** “then” or some translations, “therefore”: Everything that Paul is going to unpack in the rest of chapter 3 is built on what he just told us in verses 1-4.

A Doctrine of Sin in Layman’s Terms or A Doctrine of Sin for the Streets

1. We sin because we are sinful.

- What is sin? “Any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude or nature.”
– Wayne Grudem
- Sin begins within. (Ps. 51:6)

2. We are professional sinners. (or flip with #1)

3. Sin doesn’t sleep.

- a. There is a constant battle, a war being waged. There is never a moment that the law of sin rests within us.

4. Sin has grave consequences.

- a. Literally! Verse 6: “On account of these the wrath of God is coming.”
- b. What is wrath? God’s intense hatred of evil and the judgment that results from that hatred.

5. Therefore, we must kill sin.

- a. “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.” – 1 Peter 2:11
- b. **John Owen, *The Mortification of the Flesh*, “Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you.”**

“sexual immorality” –

- Paul is referring to any form of sexual intercourse or sexual sin (we) outside of the biblical bounds of marriage.
- We live in a sex-crazed culture. Sex sales. Sensuality is at our fingertips. A man or a woman can view pornography on demand, with the click of a button. The adult industry raked in 13.3 billion dollars in the U.S. in 2006 and \$97 billion worldwide. Statistics say that around 70% of men between the ages of 18-34 visit a website with sexually explicit material in a month, but it’s not just men. 28% of those admitting to sexual addiction are women. (internet-filter-review.com)

“impurity” – gets at the evil thought and intentions of the mind.

“passion” and “evil desire” refers to those perverted, twisted longings in our heart that go after that which God prohibits.

“covetousness” – one word: “More” greed... The insatiable desire for more than what we need or more than what rightfully belongs to us.

- Paul tells us the greatest danger of these sins at the end of verse 5. **At the root of everything is idolatry. A worship disorder lies at the root of all of our sexual sins.**
- **Ed Welch says, “Any earthly desire that doesn’t take ‘no’ for an answer is a lust that surpasses your desire for Jesus.” (*Addictions*, 225)**

II. Clean out your wardrobe, and put on new clothes (3:8-11)

“But now you must put them all away...”

- Whereas the first set in verse 5 had to do with sexual sin, this set in verse 8 primarily addresses our interpersonal relationships.

“anger” and “wrath” refer to outbursts of temper that are destructive to our personal relationships.

- **James 1:18: “Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry...”**

“malice” refers to the deliberate intention to harm someone, usually followed by

“slander,” speech that defames and degrades another person’s character.

“obscene talk - from your mouth” – words that are considered out of the bounds of what is appropriate.

“Do not lie to one another.” Speak the truth to one another, even when it might cost you something.

“seeing that you have *put off* the old self with its practices and have *put on* the new self...”

- The old self refers our life before we experienced the saving grace of God.
- When Paul says “put off,” he means “to strip off, as in the case of old filthy, wornout clothes.”
- In contrast, we are to “put on the new self being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”
- **Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and more and more like Christ.** It is the process of putting off and putting on, “out with the old, in with the new”
- **The process of sanctification** is essentially becoming who we already are because of Christ’s work and our union with him.
- Far too often, we reduce Christianity to a list of don’ts. Don’t do this. Don’t do that. Don’t go there. Don’t act like them. Sadly, Christians are often more known for what we’re against than what we’re for, and we are more known for what we abstain from than what we embrace, celebrate, and exemplify.
- It’s not enough to put off greed. We must put on generosity. It’s not enough to put off pride. We must put on humility. It’s not enough to put off selfishness. We must put on selflessness.

How do we kill sin?

- **See life from a biblical perspective.** (Adopt a biblical worldview)
 - Proper view of God
 - Proper view of Sin
 - Proper view of Self
 - Proper view of Gospel
- **Be filled with the Spirit**
 - Romans 8:13
 - Pray. “You don’t know what prayer is for until you know that life is war.” – John Piper
- **Use the weapon of the Word**
- **Live in Community**
 1. Share your struggles and your burdens, Get help.
 2. Get involved in a Community Group!