

“Off With The Old”

Colossians 3:5-11

Central Idea: Believers set aside their old ways of life as they are conformed to Christ's image

I. Command to “Consider... as Dead” (5-7)

- Literal command is “put to death”
 - Not actually killing parts of our body
 - Our relationship with these things is that of death
- Our sin nature has been crucified with Christ, we must now act on that truth
- Decisive initial action that introduces a settled attitude
 - We are enabled by the Holy Spirit to accomplish this
- List of Things to Consider Ourselves as Dead To (5)
 - Immorality: All illicit sexual activity
 - Any sexual activity outside of God's design
 - Impurity: Uncleanliness or contamination in any form
 - Specifically in a moral sense
 - Passion: Uncontrolled illegitimate desire; Lust
 - Never used positively in the New Testament
 - Evil Desire: Any desires that would be “satisfied” by something forbidden
 - Greed: Any materialistic desire that disregards other's rights
 - Literally, “The desire to have more”
 - Essentially a worship of self, which is idolatry
- Reason to Consider Ourselves as Dead (6-7)
 - These things bring God's wrath
 - Believers don't have to act in these ways
 - Put them to death or be disciplined
 - Remember what you have been saved from and praise God for His mercy and grace

II. Command to “Put Aside” (8-11)

- “Take off,” or “Rid yourself of”
- Picture is of stripping away soiled clothing
 - Not taking off to put back on, but removing completely
- List of Things to Put Aside (8)
 - Anger: Deep-seated attitude of hostility
 - Unrighteous anger that puts us at odds with others
 - Wrath: Violent eruptions of evil passion
 - Unlike God's righteous wrath; unwarranted, unjust, and unnecessarily harmful
 - Malice: Vicious disposition towards others; constant ill will
 - Always ready to surface and results in the hurt of others
 - Slander: Insulting, abusive, and untrue speech in general
 - Saying things with the intent to injure
 - Abusive Speech: Filthy, disgraceful, and dishonorable
 - Foul language that grieves the hearer and defiles the speaker
 - Do not lie: Don't use deceptive, distorting, or untrue speech
 - Has the force of: “Never Lie!”
 - Indicates a lack of love, destroys confidence, and disrupts fellowship
- Reason to Put Aside These Things (9-11)
 - The old self has been stripped off and the new self put on
 - This nature is a gift from God; has capacity for growth
 - There are no distinctions in our salvation
 - Barbarian = non-Greek speaker
 - Scythian = lowest group among the barbarians
 - Christ is the key to our unity

Application:

- Stop your old, selfish ways in order to maintain unity, both with God, and one another