

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST
Putting Off The Sins Of The Old Life
Colossians 3:5-11

Living the *new life in Christ* involves *putting sin to death*. Paul said that *positionally* this is done at *the moment of salvation*.

“Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.”

~Romans 6:6-7

But that *positional* reality, however, must be *worked out* in the believer’s *practical living*. There can be no *holiness* or *spiritual maturity* in a life where *sin* runs *unchecked*.

We have *died* to sin’s *penalty*...but the *power* of *sin* can still be *strong* and our *flesh* is *weak*. That is why we must *continually put sin to death* by *yielding* to the *Holy Spirit*.

“If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

~Romans 8:10-13

In this passage, Paul gives *two lists* of *sins to kill*. They should not be considered *exhaustive*. He also gives *two reasons* for *putting sin to death*.

I. SINS OF PASSION: (vs. 5)

Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry (vs. 5)...

Therefore...refers to the truths of **verses 1-4**. Just as we find here, Paul constantly links *doctrine* and *practice* in his epistles.

Consider the members of your earthly body as dead...The **Greek tense** in this command suggests *a decisive action*. God has already *put sin to death*...but Christians are to *know* this...that is, *count it to*

be true...and *act* accordingly. *Separate yourselves* from the *deeds* of the *old nature*. *Eliminate everything* in your life that is *contrary* to *godliness...holiness...righteousness*.

It’s as if Paul said...“*Crush it! Do it now! Do it decisively!*”

We are *not to go on living* as though *nothing has changed*...that we are *still alive to sin* when in actuality *we are not*. We are to *put away the old life*...to *consider it as dead*...that *old life* which springs from the *earthly body (flesh nature)*.

“For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”

~Romans 6:5-14

This *earthly nature* is the *old self (vs. 9)* or *sinful nature*...the evil tendencies in believers today.

“In reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit.”

~Ephesians 4:22

The bottom line...as a believer, we *should not live* as we did before, because we are *new creations*. But keep in mind...even though we are *new creations* on the *inside*...the *new creature* lives in an *old body*.

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

~II Corinthians 5:17

The list of *man’s earthly nature* includes:

- **Immorality**...Gk. *porneia*, which includes *fornication*...and refers to *sexual sin* in general...any form of *illicit sex*.
“For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality.”
~I Thessalonians 4:3
- **Impurity**...a wider description of *perversion* and *sexual sin*. Begins with the *mind* and proceeds to *evil thoughts* which leads to *intention*.
- **Passion**...Gk. *pathos*, describes *uncontrollable lust*...physical.
- **Evil desire**...refers to *illicit cravings* created in the *mind*...mental.
- **Greed (coveting)**, which amounts to *idolatry*...a *desire for something that belongs to someone else*. That which *seeks satisfaction in things here on earth*...instead of *seeking the things above (vs. 1-2)*. It is the *evil root* from which all the previous *sins spring*.

Similar lists often appear in **Paul’s writings**...[Romans 1:29-31](#); [I Corinthians 5:11](#); [I Corinthians 6:9](#); [Galatians 5:19-21](#); [Ephesians 5:3-5](#).

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

~I Corinthians 3:16

*“...The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, ‘The two shall become one flesh.’ But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. **Flee immorality**. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not*

your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

~I Corinthians 6:13b-20

II. PUNISHMENT FOR DISOBEDIENCE: (vs. 6)

For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience (vs. 6)...

Wrath of God...*God’s constant, unchanging reaction to sin.*

Will come...Gk. *erchetai*, is in the **present tense** and *suggests that God’s wrath has already begun.*

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

~John 3:36

Of course, it will ultimately *culminate in His future coming* and His decisive final *judgment on evil*.

“Because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”

~Romans 2:5

Sons of disobedience...unbelievers.

III. SINS OF THE PAST: (vs. 7)

Though the **Colossian Christians** used to **walk (lifestyle)** in these *fleshly ways* before they came to know Christ...**Paul** commanded them to not **walk** or *live* this way anymore.

And in them you also once walked, when you were living in them (vs. 7)...

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).”

~Ephesians 2:1-5

IV. PROVOCATION TO SIN: (vs. 8-9)

But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth (vs. 8)...

Put them all aside...Gk. *apothesthe*, literally means *to put off*...it's saying *to rid yourselves of all such things*. It is the picture of *taking off dirty clothes* (Acts 7:58; I Peter 2:1).

“Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”

~James 1:21

These repulsive habits do not fit or suit Christians:

- **Anger**...Gk. *orgen*, is a *chronic attitude of smoldering hatred*. A *deep, smoldering, resentful bitterness*. Reveals one's *heart*.
- **Wrath**...Gk. *thymon*, describes a *fit of rage...a sudden and severe outburst of anger* (II Corinthians 12:20; Galatians 5:20; Ephesians 4:31).
- **Malice**...Gk. *kakian*, the *root that produces anger and rage*. A *general term for moral evil*. The *spiteful nature* which is *bent on doing harm to others*.
- **Slander**...Gk. *blasphemian*, describes *defaming or speaking evil about someone*. We get the word **blasphemy** from it.
- **Abusive speech**...Gk. *aischrologian*, describes *filthy, abrasive, or dishonoring language*. Speech intended to *hurt and wound* someone.

Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices (vs. 9)...

“Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

~Ephesians 4:25

Lying characterizes *Satan* (John 8:44). When *believers lie*, they are imitating *Satan*...not God. *Lying* is *inappropriate* for a Christian. At *salvation*...the believer *died to*...he *discarded*...his *old self with its evil practices*. This *sinful way* of living is characteristic of the *unregenerate* (vs. 3).

Since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices...at *salvation* the *old self* was done away with. This speaks of *transformation*...the *old self replaced* by the new self.

V. PUT ON THE NEW SELF: (vs. 10-11)

And have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him (vs. 10)...

A Christian is to **put on the new self** (vs. 12)...**Put on**...it's *not a natural response*. We must *choose* to do it. And from now on our conduct should be in accordance with this *new position*...**in Christ**.

Who is being renewed...**Present tense**...This **new self** needs *constant* and *continual renewal* or *revitalization* in order to keep it *victorious* over *sin*.

“In reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

~Ephesians 4:22-24

This *renewal* of the **new self** brings forth a **true knowledge** of who Jesus Christ is...*personally*. And this takes place as a believer comes to a *personal, deep knowledge of*...and *develops an intimate fellowship with*...Jesus Christ.

According to the image of the One who created him...its goal is to *make believers like Christ* (Ephesians 4:24).

Man was *created in the image of God* (Genesis 1:26-27)...which included a *moral, spiritual, and intellectual likeness*. Since the **image** was *corrupted by the Fall*, it needs to be **renewed**. This occurs through *sanctification*...the working of the Holy Spirit. This *will ultimately be completed* in the *resurrection of believers* when *we shall be like Him* (I John 3:2).

A renewal in which there is **no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all** (vs. 11)...

Jews call all those outside their nation **Greeks**...and thus *several distinctions were made*:

- **Religious distinctions**...Between **Greek** and **Jew**...the difference between the **circumcised** and the **uncircumcised**.
- **Cultural distinctions**...the **barbarian** described people who *spoke* in an *inarticulate* and *stammering* way. A **Scythian** was a *wild, warlike, savage nomad*.
- **Economic or social distinctions**...the distinction between the **slave** and the **freeman**.

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

~Galatians 3:28

In Christ, **distinctions** are *removed*. This includes every *ethnic, social, economic, cultural, and national* distinction. If a **Greek**, an **uncircumcised person**, a **barbarian**, a **Scythian**, or a **slave** became a believer...they became *a new creation in Christ* (**II Corinthians 5:17**).

Christ is all, and in all...All barriers are destroyed by Christ...and all believers are **in Christ**...being *continually transformed into His image* by the complete *sufficiency* and *sovereignty* of God.

LESSONS WE NEED TO LEARN:

- **Even though believers are NEW CREATIONS on the inside...the new creature lives in an OLD BODY**. The *desire* of the new inner man to live a life pleasing to God is *held back* by the old, sinful flesh with its fallen pattern.
- **When believers sin...it’s because they are doing what THEY DESIRE rather than what GOD DESIRES**. In essence it’s them *worshipping themselves* instead of God. That’s *idolatry*.
- **Although believers have been delivered from God’s WRATH... they are subject to God’s DISCIPLINE**. God will *react* against *sin*. The *unbeliever* will experience His *eternal wrath*...and the *believer* His *loving discipline*. *Righteousness* and *holiness* brings *blessing*. *Sin* never brings *true happiness* or *contentment*.